the shippers were no sooner a land, but I knew them to be of Alexandria, and for all my misfortunes, basely attired as I was, the poore knaues called me to remembrance, and their reuerence done; asked if I would to Alexandria: I told them it was mine intent, whereupon, taking leaue of my old Dastelle, the Countelle Alcida, with many thankes for my courteous entertainment, shee verie loth to leaue me, went with the Partners towards the boate.

The poore Lady, seeing her self alone, fell to her wonted teares, which the gods taking pittie on, before my face turned to a fountaine; I wondering at their deities, entred the boate, and went to the ship, where welcommed and reuerenced of the Master, and the rest, hoising vp all our sayles, we made for ALEXANDRIA.

(:)

FINIS.

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(:)

FINIS.

51 4

GWYDONIVS.

THE CARD OF FANCIE.

WHEREIN THE FOLLIE of thoſe Carpet Knightes is deciphered, which guiding their courſe by the compaſſe of Cupid, either daſh their ſhip againſt moſt dangerous Rockes, or elſe attaine the hauen with paine and perill.

¶WHEREIN ALSO IS DESCRIbed in the perſon of Gwydonius, a cruell Combat betweene Nature and Neceſſitie.

BY ROBERT GREENE MAIſter of Art, in Cambridge.

LONDON
Printed by Th. C. for William Ponſonbie. 1593.

BIBLIOTHECA REGIA

TO THE RIGHT HONOVRABLE, EDWARD DE VERE EARLE of Oxenford, Vicount Bulbecke, Lord of Escales and Badlesmere, and Lord great Chamberlaine of England. Robert Greene wisheth long life with increase of Honour.

THat poore Castilian Frontino (Right Honourable) being a verie vnskilfull Painter, presented Alphonsus, the Prince of Aragon, with a most imperfect picture, which the King thankfully accepted, not that hee liked the worke, but that he loued the art. The paltering Poet Cherillus, dedicated his duncing Poems to that mightie Monarch Alexander, saying, that he knew assuredly if Alexander would not accept them in that they were not pithie, yet hee would not vtterlie reiect them, in that they had a shew of Poetrie. Cæsar oft times praised his souldiers for their will, although they wanted skill: and Cicero as well commended stammering Lentulus for his painfull industrie, as learned Lælius for his passing eloquence. Which considered (although wisedome did will me not to straine further then my sleeue wold stretch) I thought good to present this imperfect Pamphlet to your Honors protection, hoping your Lordship will deigne to accept the matter in that it seemeth to be prose, though something vnsauourie for want of skill, & take my well meaning for an excuse of my boldnesse, in that my poore will is not in the wane, whatsoeuer this imperfect worke do want. The Emperour Traian was neuer without sutors, because so curteously he would heare euery complaint. The Lapidaries con-

tinually frequented the Court of Adobrandinus, becauſe it was his chiefe ſtudie to ſearch out the nature of ſtones. All that courted to Atlanta were hunters, and none ſued to Sapho but Poets. Whereſoeuer Mæcanas lodgeth, thither no doubt will ſchollers flocke. And your Honour being a worthie fauourer and foſterer of learning, hath forced manie through your exquiſit vertue, to offer the firſt fruits of their ſtudie at the ſhrine of your Lordſhips curteſie. But though they haue waded farre & found mines, and I gadded abroad to get nothing but Mites, yet this I aſſure my ſelfe, that they neuer preſented vnto your honor their treaſure with a more willing mind, than I do this ſimple traſh, which I hope your Lordſhip will ſo accept. Reſting therefore vppon your Honours wonted clemencie, I commit your Lordſhip to the Almightie.

Your Lordſhips moſt dutifully to command,
Robert Greene.

TO THE GENTLEMEN Readers, hearth.

DAN blowing vpon an Oten pipe a litle homely Muſicke, and hearing no man diſpraiſed his ſmall cunning, began both to plaie ſo loud, and ſo long, that they were more wearie in hearing his muſicke, than he in ſhewing his skil, till at laſt to clawe him and excuſe them ſelues, they ſaid his pipe was out of tune: So Gentlemen, becauſe I haue before time raſhly recht aboue my pitch, and yet your curteſie ſuch as no man haue accuſed me, I haue once againe aduentured vpon your patience (but I doubt ſo farre) as to be rid of my follie, you will at the leaſt ſay, as Auguſtus ſaid to the Grecian, that gaue him oft times manie rude verſes: Thou hadſt neede (quoth he) reward me well, for I take more paines to reade thy workes, than thou to write them. But yet willing to abide this quip, becauſe I may counteruaile it with your former curteſie, I put my ſelfe to your patience, and commit you to the Almighty.

Farewell.

Robert Greene.

AD LECTOREM IN laudem Authoris.

PVllulat en ſtirpi ſimilis ſpecioſa propago
Aureoluſq; nouo reuireſcit ramus amoris
Vere: (tuo verè iam VERE dicandus honori:)
Iſta ſalus Iuueni, Comiti ſit gloria noſſe
Accepiſſe decus: Comites vbi paſsibus æquis
Ales amor virtuſq; ſagax decurrere nôrunt.
Ventilat iſte faces, reſtinguit at illa furentes
Tædas. Nec tædet Pueri ſic tædia cæci
Fallere, qui cæcis conuoluit viſcera flammis.
Ergo refer grates qui deuitare cupi'ſti
Spumoſos Veneris fluctus, ſcopuloſq; minaces
qui fragilem tumidis cymbam merſiſſe procellis
Poſſent. Hàc iter eſt, hàc dirige, tutior ibis.

Richardus Portingtonus.

THE CARDE OF FANCIE.

THere dwelled in the citie of Metelyne, a certaine Duke called Clerophontes, who through his prowesse in all martiall exploits waxed so proud and tyrannous, vsing such mercilesse crueltie to his foraigne enemies, & such moodlesse rigour to his natiue Citizens, that it was doubtfull whether he was more feared of his foes for his crueltie, or hated of his friendes for his tyrannie: yet as the worst weed springeth vp more brauely then the wholsommest hearbe, and as the crookedst tree is commonly laden with most fruite, so this rigorous duke was so fauoured and fostered vp by fortune, his estate being so established with honor, & so beautified with wealth, so deckt with the Diadem of dignity, and endued with fortunate prosperitie, hauing in warres such happie successe against his foes, and in peace such dutifull reuerence of his friends, (although more for feare than fauour) as he seemed to want nothing that either fortune or the fates coulde allow him, if one onely sore which bred his sorrowe, coulde haue been saued. But this griefe so galled his conscience, and this cursed care so cumbred his minde, that his happinesse was greatly surcharged with heauinesse, to see the cause of his care coulde by no meanes be cured. For this Clerophontes, was indued with two children, the one a daughter named Lewcippa, and the other a sonne called Gwydonius, this Lewcippa, was so perfect in the complexion of her bodie, and so pure in the constitution of her minde, so adorned with outward beautie, and endued

with

with inward bountie, so polished with rare vertues and exquisite qualities, as shée séemed a séemely Venus, for her beautie, and a second Vesta, for her virginitie: yea Nature and the Gods had so bountifully bestowed their gifts vppon her, as fame her selfe was doubtfull whether shé should make greater report of her excellent vertue, or exquisite beautie. But his sonne Gwydonius, was so contrarie to his sister Lewcippa, (though not in the state of his bodie, yet in the stay of his mind) as it made all men marualle how two such contrarie stemmes could spring out of the selfe-same stocke: His personage indéede was so comely, his feature so well framed, each limme so perfectly couched, his face so faire, and his countenance so amiable, as hée séemed a heauenly creature in a mortall carkasse. But his minde was so blemished with detestable qualities, and so spotted with the staine of voluptuousnesse, that hée was not so much to be commended for the proportion of his bodie, as to be condempned for the imperfection of his minde. He was so endued with vanitie, and so imbrued with vice, so nursed vp in wantonnesse, and so nusled vp in wilfulnesse, so careless to obserue his fathers commaund, and so retchlesse to regard his counsell, that neither the dread of Gods wrath, nor the feare of his fathers displeasure, could driue him to desist from his detestable kinde of liuing. May, there was no fact so filthy, which hee would not commit, no mischiefe so monstrous, which he would not enterprise: no daunger so desperate, which he woulde not aduenture: no perill so fearefull, which he woulde not performe: nor no action so diuelish, which he would not execute. So immodest in his manners, so rude in his iestures, yea, and so prodigall in his expences, as mines of golde were not able to maintaine such witlesse prodigalitie. This loathsome life of Gwydonius, was such a cutting corasiue to his Fathers carefull conscience, and such a hapless clogge to his heauie heart, that no ioy coulde make him enioy anie ioye, no

mirth

mirth could make him merrie, no prosperitie could make him pleasant, but abandoning all delight, and auoyding all companie, he spent his dolefull daies in dumps and dolors, which he vttered in these words.

NOw (quoth he) I proue by experience, the saying of Sophocles to be true, that the man which hath many children shal neuer liue without some mirth, nor die without some sorrow: for if they be vertuous, he shal haue cause whereof to reioyce, if vicious, wherefore to be sad, which saying I trie performed in my selfe, for as I haue one child which delights me with her vertue, so I haue another that despights me with his vanitie, as the one by dutie brings me ioy, so the other by disobedience breeds my anoy: yea, as the one is a comfort to my minde, so the other is a fretting corasiue to my heart: for what griefe is there more griping, what paine more pinching, what crosse more combersome, what plague more pernitious, yea, what trouble can torment me worse, then to see my sonne, mine heire, the inheritour of my Dukedom, which should be the piller of my parentage, to consume his time in roysting & ryot, in spending and spoyling, in swearing and swashing, & in following wilfully the furie of his owne frantike fancie. Alasse, most miserable and lamentable case, would to God the destinies had decreed his death in the swadling clouts, or that the fates had prescribed his ende in his infancie. Oh that the date of his birth had bene the day of his buriall, or that by some sinister storme of fortune he had been stifled on his mothers knees, so that his vntimely death might haue preuented my ensuing sorrowes, and his future calamities: for I see that the yong frie will alwaies proue olde frogs, that the croked twig, will proue a crabbed tree, that the lower bud will neuer be sweete blossome, how that which is bredde by the bone will not easily out of the flesh, that he which is careless in youth, wil be lesse carefull in age, that where in prime of yeeres vice raigneth, there in ripe age

vanitie remaineth. Why Clerophontes, if thou seest the loze, why doest thou not apply the salue, and if thou doest perceiue the mischiefe, why doest not preuent it with medicine; take away the cause and the effect faileth, if Gwydonius be the cause of thy ruth, cut him off betimes, lest he bring thée to ruine, better hadst thou want a sonne then neuer want sozrow. Perhaps thou wilt suffer him so long till he fall sicke of the Father, and then he will not onely seeke thy landes and liuing, but life and all, if thou preuent not his purpose: yea, & after thy death he will be through his lasciuious life the ouerthzow of thy house, the consumer of thy Dukedome, the wracke of thy common weale, and the verie man that shall bring the state of Metelyne to mischiefe & miserie. Sith then thy sonne is such a sinke of sozrowes, in whose life lyes hid a loathsome masse of wretched inishaps, cut him off as a graceless graft, vnwozthie to grow out of such a stock. Alasse Clerophontes, shalt thou be so vnnaturall as to seeke the spoile of thine own childe, wilt thou be moze sauage then the brute beastes in committing such crueltie, no, alasse the least missozture of our chilozen doth so moue vs, that as the Spider séeleth if her web be prickt but with the point of a pinne, so if they be toucht but with the least trouble, we séele the paines therof with pricking griefe to pinch vs. Why hath not nature then caused loue to ascend as wel as to descend, and placed as dutifull obedience in the child, as louing affection in the father: & with that he fetcht such a deepe sigh, that it was a signe of the extreame sozrow he conceiued foz his sonnes witlesse folly. But as he was readie againe to enter into his dolefull discourse, to aggrauate his griefe the moze, and increase his care, certaine complaints were brought him by sundzy Citizens, of the outragious behauiour of his sonne Gwydonius, which being attentiuely heard, he in great cholar called foz his sonne, against whom he thundzed out such threatning repzoaches, laying befoze his face the miserie that would ensue of such reckless mischiefes,

and

and promising that if he directed not his course by a new compasse, and leuelled his life by a new line, he would not onely repaie his folly with the penaltie of the law, but also by cõsent of his commons, disinherite him of his Dukedome: that Gwydonius, greatly inconsed with the seuere censure of his father, broyling with furious rage, sturdely burst forth into these stubborne tearmes.

SIr, (quoth he) if Terence his Menedemus were aliue, and heard these your fond and fantasticall reasons, he would as readily condemne you of crabbednesse, as he accused Chremes of currishnesse: for as he by too much austeritie procured his sonnes mishap, so you by too much seueritie seeke to breed my misfortune. You old men most iniustly, or rather iniuriously, measure our stayelesse mood by your stayed minds, our young yeares by your hoary haires, our flourishing youth by your withered age, thinking to direct our doings by your doatings, our loues by your wits, our youthfull fancies by your aged affections, & to quench our fierie flames by your dead coales and cinders: yea, supposing that the Leueret should be as skilfull in making of a head, as the old Hare, that the yong Cubs should allow as tapish, as the old For, that the yong Frie should as well auoyd the net as the old Fish, and that the yong Wantons should be as warie as the old wylards. But this sir, is to make fire frost, to chaunge heate to colde, mirth to mourning, singing to sadnesse, pleasure to paine, and to tye the Ape and the Beare in one tedder, sith then yong stemmes will not be set on a withered stocke, that the yong twig lieth not vnder ỳ old tree, that the toyish conceits of youth are vnfit for the testie cogitations of age: I mean for your satisfaction and my solace, to depart from the Court, and to spend my daies in trauell.

Clerophontes no sooner heard this determination of his sonne Gwydonius, but his sorrow was halfe salued, and his care almost cured, thinking that by trauell he

should either end his life, or amend his lewdnesse, & therefore both hearted and hastened his sonne in this his newe course, least delay might breed danger, or time by some toy cause him turne his tippet, furnishing & finishing al things necessarie for his sonnes iournie, who readie to goe (more willing to trauell, than his father to intreate him) had this friendly farewell giuen him by Clerophontes.

SOnne (quoth he) there is no greater doubt which doth more deeply distresse the minde of a yong man, then to determine with himselfe what course of life is best to take, for there is such a confused Chaos, of contrarie conceites in yong wits, that whiles they looke for that they cânot like, they are lost in such an endlesse labyrinth, as neither choice nor chance can draw them out to their wished desires, for so many vaines so many vanities: if vertue draweth one way, vice driueth another way: as profit perswades them, so pleasures prouokes them: as wit weigheth, will wresteth, if friendes counsell them to take this, fancie forceth them to chose that: so that desire so long hangs in doubt, as either they chose none, or else chance on the worst. But in my opinion, the fittest kind of life for a yong gentleman to take (who as yet hath not subdued the youthfull conceits of fancie, nor made a conquest of his will by wit) is to spend his time in trauell, wherein he shall finde both pleasure and profite: yea, and buy that by experience, which otherwise with all the treasure in the world he cannot purchase. For what chaungeth vanitie to vertue, stayelesse wit to staied wisedome, fond fantasies to firme affections, but trauell: what represseth the rage of youth, and redresseth the witlesse furie of wanton yeeres, but trauell: what turneth a secure life to a carefull liuing, what maketh the foolish wise, yea, what increaseth wit and augmenteth skill, but trauell: in so much that the fame Vlisses wonne, was not by the terme yeeres he lay at Troy, but by the time he spent in trauell. But there is nothing Gwidonius, so pre-

cious,

cions; which in some respect is not perillous, nor nothing so pleasant which may not be painfull: The finest Golde hath his drosse, the purest Wine his lees, the brauest Rose his prickles, each sweete hath his sower, each ioy his annoy, each weale his woe, and euerie delight his danger.

So trauaile Gwydonius, is a course of life verie pleasant, and yet verie perillous, wherein thou maist practise vertue if thou take heede, or purchase discredit if thou beest careless: where thou maist reape renowne if thou beest vertuous, and gaine reproach if thou be vicious: wherout do spring wisedome and folly, freedome and bondage, treasure and trash, fame and discredit, honour and shame, according to the disposition of him which either vseth it to his profit, or abuseth it to his discommoditie. Sith then thou shalt beare saile in such perillous Straightes, take heede lest thou dash thy Ship against most dangerous Rockes. It is a saying Guydonius, not so common as true, that he which will heare the Syrens sing, must with Vlisses, tye himselfe to the mast of a ship, least happely he be drowned. Who so means to be a suter to Circes, must take a Preseruatiue, vnlesse he will be inchanted.

He that will fish for the Torpedo, must annoint his hand with the oyle of Nemiphar, least he be charmed, and who so meaneth to enter combat with vanitie, must first surely defence himself with the target of vertue, vnlesse he meane to be a captiue to care, or calamitie. I speake this Gwydonius by experience, which afterwarde thou shalt knowe by proofe, for in trauell thou shalt finde such subtill Syrens, as will indanger thee, such sorcering Circes, as will inchaunt thee, such poysoned Torpedos, as will not onely charme thy hand, but thy heart, if by my experience and other mens perils thou learne not to beware. First Gwydonius, be not too sumptuous, least thou seeme prodigall, nor too couetous, least they count thee a niggard: for by spending in excesse, thou shalt be thought a vaine glorious foole, & by too much sparing, a couetous pesant. Be not wilfull in thy doings,

that they count thee not witlesse, nor too rash, that they think thee not deuoyd of reason: be not too merry, that they count thee not immodest, nor too sober, least they call thee sullen, but shew thy selfe to be an old man for thy grauity, and a young youth for thy actiuitie: so shall all men haue cause to prayse thee for thy manners, and commend thee for thy modestie. Be not too curious Guydonius, ỳ they deeme thee not proud, nor too curteous, least they call thee counterfaite. Be a friend to all, and a foe to none, and yet trust not without triall, nor commit any secret to a friendly stranger, least in too much trust lie treason, & thou be forced by repentance to cry Peccaui. The sweetest Muske is sower to be tasted, the finest Pilles most bitter to be chewed, and the flattering friend most tickle being tried, then beware least faire words make fooles faine, and glozing speeches cause had I wist to come to late. Lend not Guidonius, a listning eare to the alarums of Loue, nor yeeld not thy freedome to the assault of lust, be not dazeled with the beames of fading beautie, nor daunted with the desire of euery delicate damsell, for in time such blisse will proue but bane, and such delightfull ioy, but despitefull annoy. Lust Guydonius will proue an enemie to thy purse, and a foe to thy person, a canker to thy minde, and a corasiue to thy conscience, a weakener of thy wit, a molester of thy mind, a besotter of thy senses, and finally, a mortall bane to all thy body, so that thou shalt finde pleasure the pathway to perdition, & lusting Loue the load-stone to ruth and ruine. Seeke not then Guydonius, greedily to deuoure that bayt, whereunto thou knowest a hurtfull hooke to be hidden: frequent not that pleasure which will turne to thy poyson, nor couet that companie which will conuert to thy confusion, least through such folly thou haue cause in time to be sad, and I to be sorrowfull. Nowe Guydonius that thou hast heard the aduertisement of a louing father, follow my aduise as a dutifull child, and the more to bind thee to performe my former precepts, that this my counsaile

be

be not drowned in obliuion, I giue thee this ring of gold, wherein is written this sentence, Præmonitus, Præmunitus. A poesie pretty for the words, and pithie for the matter, short to be rehearsed, and long to be related, inferring this sense, that he which is forewarned by friendly counsaile of imminent dangers, is forearmed against all future mishap and calamitie, so that he may by forewarning preuent perils if it be possible, or if by sinister fortune hee cannot eschew them, yet he may beare the crosse with more patience and lesse griefe. Keepe this Ring Guydonius carefully, that thou mayst shewe thy selfe to respect thy owne case, and regard my counsaile: and in so doing thou shalt please me, and pleasure thy selfe.

CLerophontes, hauing thus ended his discourse, embracing his sonne with fatherly affection, and giuing him his blessing, went secretly into his Chamber, the more to couer his griefe which he conceiued for his sonnes departure: vnwilling his sonne should perceiue by his sorrow how vnfainedly he both liked and loued him.

WEll, Guydonius hauing taken his leaue of his father, furnished both with counsaile and coine, with aduice of wisedome and aide of wealth, passed on his iourney very solemnly, vntill hee was past the boundes of his fathers Dukedome, and then as merry as might be, hee trauailed by the space of seuen weekes without anie residence, vntill he came to a Cittie called Barutta, where (whether he were delighted with the situation of the place, or deluded with the perswasion of some Parasiticall persons) he securely setled himselfe by the space of a whole yeare: in which time he so carefully floated in the seas of voluptuousnesse, and so recklesly raunged in licentious and lawlesse libertie, thinking himselfe a peasant if he were not prodigall, counting nothing comely, if not costly, nothing seemely if not sumptuous, vsing such

monstrous

monstrous excesse in all his actions, that the Citizens of Barucca noted him for a myrrour of immoderate life, and a verie patterne of witlesse prodigalitie: yea, his excessiue expences daily so increased, that Mines of gold had not bin sufficient to maintaine his pompous magnificence, insomuch, that the Magistrates of Barucca, not onely maruelled where he had coine to counteruaile his expenses, but also began to suspect him either for some skilful Alcumist, or that he had some large commission to take vp those purses that fell into lapse, for want of sufficient defence: wherupon being called before the Magistrates and strictly examined what trade he vsed, why he staied so long in the Citie, and how he was able to maintaine so princely a port as he carried: Gwydonius vnwilling to haue them priuie to his parentage, began to coine a fable, yet not so cunningly but he was trapt in his owne talke, and so cast in prison, where he laie clogged with care and deuoid of comfort, hauing not so much as one trustie friend, amongst all those trothlesse flatterers which in prosperitie had so frequented his company, the ingratitude of whom so perplexed his molested mind, as surcharged with sorow, he burst forth into to these tearmes.

ALasse (quoth he) now haue I bought that by hapless experience, which if I had bene wise, I might haue got by happie counsell: Now am I taught that with paine and perill, which if selfeloue had not besotted my senses, I might haue learned with profit and pleasure, that in the faireſt Sandes is most fickleneſſe, out of the braueſt Blossome most commonly springeth the worſt fruite, that the fineſt floure seldome hath the beſt smell, that the most glistering stone hath oftentimes the leaſt vertue, and that in the greateſt shew of good will, lyes oft times the smalleſt effect of friendship, in most flatterie, leaſt faith, in the faireſt face, ỹ falſeſt heart, in the smootheſt tale the smalleſt truth, & in the ſweeteſt gloſes, moſt ſower ingratitude: Yea, I ſee

now

now (quoth he) ỳ in truſt lies treaſon, ỳ faire woꝛds make fooles fain, & that the ſtate of theſe fained friends are like to the Marie-gold, which as long as the Sunne ſhineth openeth her leaues, but with the leaſt cloud beginneth to cloſe, like the Violets in America, which in ſommer yeeld an odoꝛiferous ſmell, and in winter a moſt peſtilent ſauour: ſo theſe Paraſites in pꝛoſpeꝛitie pꝛofeſſe moſt, but in aduerſitie peꝛfoꝛme leaſt: when Foꝛtune fauoureth, they laugh, when ſhe froꝛoneth, they loꝛoze: at euerie full ſea, they flouriſh, but at euerie dead Neape they fade: Like to the fiſh Palerna, which being perfectly white in the calme, yet turneth paſſing blacke at euerie ſtoꝛme: to the trees in the deſarts of Affrica, that flouriſh but while the South winde bloweth, oꝛ to the Celedonie ſtone, which retaineth his vertue no longer than it is rubbed with gold.

Sith then Gwydonius (quoth he) thou findes ſuch falſehood in friendſhip, and ſuch faithleſſe deedes in ſuch painted ſpeeches, ſhake off theſe fawning cuꝛs with the flag of deſiance, and from henceforth trie ere thou truſt. I, but (quoth he) it is too late to applie the ſalue when the ſoꝛe is incurable, to cry alarum when the Citie is ouerrunne, to ſeeke foꝛ couert when the ſtoꝛme is paſt, and to take heed of ſuch flattering mates, when alreadie thou art deceiued by ſuch fawning merchants: now thou wilt crie Caue when thy coine is conſumed, and beware when thy wealth is wꝛacked, when thou haſt nothing whereof to take charge, thou wilt be charie, and when follie hath alreadie giuen thee a mate, thou wilt by wiſedome ſeeke to auoyd the checke, but now thou trieſt it true that thy father foꝛetold thee, that ſo long thou wouldeſt be careleſſe, as at laſt repentance would pull thee by the ſleeue, and then had I will would come too late.

Well Gwydonius, ſith that which is once paſt can neuer be recald againe, if thou haſt by follie made a fault, ſeeke by wiſedome to make amendes, and heape not care vpon care, noꝛ adde not griefe to ſoꝛrow, by theſe pitifull com-

plaintes, but cheere vp thy selfe and take heart at grasse, for the ende of woe is the beginning of weale, and after miserie alwaies insueth most happie felicitie.

Gwydonius hauing thus dolorously discoursed with himselfe, remained not aboue ten daies in prison, but that the Senate taking pittie of his case, and seeing no accusations were inferred against him, set him free from his Purgatory, and gaue him good counsel, that hereafter he should beware by such witlesse prodigalitie to incurre such suspition. Theseus neuer triumphed more after he had escaped the danger of the perillous labyrinth, than poore Gwydonius did when he was set free from this pernitious Limbo, now the bitternesse of bondage made his freedome seeme farre more sweete, and his danger so happelie escaped, caused his deliuerie seeme farre more delightfull. Yet he conceiued such discurtesie against the Citizens, for repaying his liberall good wil with such loathsome ingratitude, that the next morning he departed frō Barutta, not stored with too much monie for molesting his minde, nor ouercharged with coine for combering his cōscience with [illegible]ch care, but hauing remaining of all his treasure [illegible]at ring which his father gaue him, trauelling verie solemnly toward Alexandria.

Where at that time there raigned a certaine Duke named Orlanio, who was so famous and fortunate, for the peaceable gouernment of his Dukedome, administering iustice with such sinceritie, and yet tempering the extremitie of the law with such lenitie, as he both gained the good wil of strangers in hearing his vertue, and wonne the hearts of his subiects in feeling his bountie, counting him vnworthie to beare the name of a Soueraigne, which knew not according to desert, both to cherish and chastise his subiects.

Fortune and the fates willing to place him in the pal-

lace

face of earthly prosperitie, endowed him with two childre, the one a sonne named Therſandro, and the other a daughter called Caſtania, either of them so adorned with the gifts of Nature, and beautified with good nurture, as it was hard to know whether beautie or vertue held the supremacie. But least by this happie estate Orlanio should be too much puffed vp with prosperitie, Fortune sparing him the mate, yet gaue him a slender checke, to warne him from securitie, for before his daughter came to the age of foureteene yeares, his wife died, leauing him not more sorrowfull for the losse of her whom he most entirely loued, than carefull for the well bringing vp of her whom he so dearely lyked. Knowing that as his Court was a schoole of vertue to such as brideled their minds with discreation, so it was a nurse of vice to those tender yeares that measured their willes with witlesse affection, estæming libertie as perillous to the staie of youth, as precious to the state of age, and that nothing so sone allureth the minde of a yong maide to vanitie, as to passe her youth without feare in securitie. Feared with the consideration of these premises, to auoyd the the inconueniences that might happen by suffering Caſtania to leade her life in lawlesse libertie, he thought it best to chose out some vertuous Ladie to keepe her companie, who might direct her course by so true a compasse, and leuell her life by so right a line, that although her young yeares were verie apt to be intangled in the snares of vanitie, yet by her counsaile and companie, she might steddily tread her steps in the trace of vertue, and none he could finde more fit for the purpose, than a certaine old widow, called Madame Melytta, honoured for her vertuous life throughout all Alexandria, who being sent for to the court, he saluted on this maner.

MAdame Melytta, (quoth hee) the report of thy honorable conditions, and the renowme of thy vertuous qualities are such, as thereby thou hast not onely gained

chaſed great praiſe, but wonne great credit throughout all the Countrie. Inſomuch that I incenſed by this thy ſingular commendation, I haue ſelected thée as the onelie woman to whome I meane to commit my chiefeſt treaſure, I meane Melytta, my daughter Caſtania, to whome I will haue thée be both a companion and a counſellour, hoping thou wilt take ſuch care to traine her vp in vertue, & trace her quite from vice, to winne her minde to honeſtie, and weane her quite from vanitie, that ſhe in her ripe yeares ſhall haue cauſe to thanke thée for thy paines, and I occaſion to eſgard thée as a friend, and reward thée for thy diligence.

FIrſt Melytta, ſée that ſhe leade her life both charily and chaſtly. Let her not haue her owne will, leaſt ſhe proue too wilfull: or too much libertie, leaſt ſhe become too light. The palme trée preſſed downe, groweth notwithſtanding but too faſt. The hearbe Spattania, though troden on, groweth verie tall, and youth although ſtrictly reſtrained, will proue but too ſtubburne.

The veſſell ſauoureth alwaies of that licour wherwith it was firſt ſeaſoned, and the minde retaineth thoſe qualities in age wherein it was trained vp in youth. The tender twig is ſoner broken than the ſtrong branch, the yong ſtem more brittle than the old ſtocke, the weake bramble ſhaken with euerie wind, and the wauering will of youth toſſed with euerie puffe of vanitie, readie to be wracked in the waues of wantonneſſe, vnleſſe it be cunningly guided by ſome wiſe and warie Pilot.

Then Melytta, youth is ſo eaſilie entrapped with the
[illegible]uring traine of foliſh delights, and ſo ſone entangled
[illegible]ith the traſh of pernitious pleſures, ſuffer not my daugh-
[illegible] to paſſe her time in idleneſſe, leaſt happely being ta-
[illegible]at diſcouert, ſhe become a careleſſe captiue to ſecuri-
tie for when the minde once floateth in the ſurging ſeas
of idle conceits, then the puffes of voluptuous pleaſures,

and the stiffeling stormes of vnbrideled fancie, the raging blastes of alluring beautie, and the sturdie gale of glozing vanitie, so shake the shippe of reckelesse youth, that it is dayly in doubt to suffer most dangerous shipwracke. But let her spend her time in reading such auncient authors as may sharpen her wit by their pithie sayinges, and learne her wisedome by their perfect sentences. For where nature is vicious, by learning it is amended, and where it is vertuous, by skill it is augmented. The stone of secret vertue is of greater price if it be brauely polished, the gold though neuer so pure of it selfe, hath the better coulour if it be burnished, and the minde though neuer so vertuous, is more noble if it be enriched with the giftes of learning. And Melytta, for recreation sake, let her vse such honest sportes as may driue away dumpes, least shee be too pensiue, and free her minde from foolish conceites, that she be not too wanton.

Thus (Madame) as you haue heard my fatherly aduise, so I pray you giue my daughter the like friendly aduertisement, that hereafter she may haue both cause to reuerence me, and to reward thee.

Melytta hauing heard with attentiue heede the mind of Orlanio, conceiued such ioy in this new charge, and such delight in this happie chance, as with cheerefull countenance she repaied him this answere.

SIr (quoth she) although in the largest seas are the sorest tempests, in the broadest wayes most boistrous winds, in the highest hilles, most dangerous happes, and the greatest charge the greatest care, yet the duetie which I owe you as my Soueraigne, and the loue I beare you as a subiect, the care I haue to please you as my Prince, & to pleasure you as a Potentate, the trust you repose in my trueth without sufficient triall, the confidence you put in my conscience without sure proofe, the curtesie your grace doth shew me without any desert, haue so inflamed

the forepassed fire of dutifull affection, and so incouraged me to encounter your Graces curtesie, with willing constancie, that there is no happe so hard which I woulde not hazard, no daunger so desperate which I would not aduenture, no burthen so heauie which I would not beare, no perill so huge which I would not passe, no charge so great, which both willingly and warily I would not performe. For, since it hath pleased your Grace to vouchsafe so much of my simple calling, as to assigne me for a companion for your daughter Castania, I will take such care in the chary performance of my charge, and indeuour with such diligence both to counsaile & comfort Castania, as your Grace shal perceiue my dutie in pleasing you, and my diligence in pleasing her.

THe Duke hearing the friendly and faithfull protestation of the good Ladie Melytta, tolde her that although it were great trouble for one of her age to frame her selfe as a companion to such yong youth, and that some care belonged to such a charge, yet hee would so counteruaile her painfull labour with princelie liberalitie, that both she and all Alexandria should haue cause to speake of his bountie.

MElytta, thanking the Duke for such vndeserued curtesie, setting her household affaires in good order, repaired to the Court as speedily as might be. But leauing her with Castania, againe to Gwydonius. Who now being arriued in Alexandria, pinched with pouertie, and distressed with want, hauing no coine left wherwith to counteruaile his expences, thought it his best course, if it were possible to compasse the Dukes seruice, repairing therefore to the Court, he had not staied there three dayes before he found fit opportunitie to offer his seruice to Orlanio, whom very dutifully he saluted in this maner.

THe report (right worthie Prince) of your incomparable curtesie and peareleſſe magnanimity, is so blazed abroad throughout

throughout all Countries, by the golden trumpe of Fame, that your Grace is not more loued of your subiectes which tast of your liberall bountie, then honoured of straungers, which onely heare of your princely vertue. Insomuch that it hath forced me to leaue my native soyle, my parentes, kindred, and familiar friends, and pilgrimlike to passe into a strange Country, to try ỹ by experience heere, which I haue heard by report at home. For it is not (right worthy Sir) the state of your Country that hath allured me (for I deeme Bohemia, wherof I am, no lesse pleasant than Alexandria, neither hath want of liuing) or hope of gaine intised me, for I am by birth a Gentleman, and issued of such parents as are able with sufficient patrimonie to maintaine my estate, but the desire, not onely to see, but also to learne such rare curtesie and vertuous qualities as fame hath reported to be put in practise in your Court, is the onely occasion of this my iourny. Now if in recompence of this my trauaile, it shall please your grace to vouchsafe of my seruice, I shall thinke my selfe fully satisfied, and my paines sufficiently requited.

Orlanio, hearing this dutifull discourse of Gwydonius, marking his manners, and musing at his modestie, noting both his excellent courtesie, and exquisite beautie, was so inflamed with friendly affection toward this young youth, that not onely he accepted of his seruice, but also preferred him as a companion to his sonne Thersandro, promising that since hee had left his Country and parentes for this cause, he would so counteruaile his dutifull desert with fauour and friendship, as hee should neuer haue cause to accuse him of ingratitude.

Guydonius repaying heartie thankes to the Duke for his vndeserued curtesie, being now brought from woe to weale, from despaire to hope, from bale to blisse, from care to securitie, from want to wealth, yea, from hellish misery, to heauenly prosperitie, behaued himselfe so wisely and warily, with such curtesie in conuersation, and modestie in

manners,

manners, that in short time he not onely purchased credit and countenance with Orlanio, but was most intirely liked and loued of Thersando.

Now there remained in the Court a young knight, called Signior Valericus, who by chance casting his glancing eies on the glittering beautie of Castania, was so fettered in the snare of fancie, and so entangled with the trap of affection, so perplexed in the Labozinth of pinching loue, and so inchanted with the charme of Venus, Sozcerie, that as the Elephent reioiceth greatly at the sight of a Rose, as the Bird Halçiones delighteth to view the feathers of ẏ Phœnix, and as nothing better contenteth a Ro buck, than to gaze at a red cloth, so there was no obiect that could allure the wauering eies of Valericus, as the surpassing beauty of Castania, yea, his onely blisse, pleasure, ioy, & delight, was in feeding his fancie with staring on ẏ heauenly face of his goddesse. But alas her beautie bred his bane, her looks, his losse, her sight his sozrow, her exquisite perfections, his extreame passions, that as the Ape by seeing the Snaile is infected, as the Leopard falleth in a trance at the sight of the Locust, as the Cockatrice dieth with beholding the Chrisolito, so pooze Valericus was pinched to ẏ heart with viewing her comely coũtenance, was griped with galling griefe, and toztured with insupportable tozmentes, by gazing vpon the gallant beautie of so gozgious a dame: yea, he so framed in his fancie the fozme of her face, and so imprinted in his heart the perfection of her person, that the remembrance thereof would suffer him to take no rest, but hee passed the day in dolour, the night in sozrow, no minute without mourning, no houre without heauinesse, that falling into pensiue passions hee began thus to parle with himselfe.

Why how now Valericus (quoth hee) art thou haunted with some hellish hagge, oz possessed with some frantike furie, art thou inchanted with some magicall charme, oz charmed with some bewitching Sozcerie, that so so-

dainly

vainly thy minde is perplexed with a thousand sundry passions, alate free, and now fettered, alate swimming in rest, and now sinking in care, erewhile in securitie, and now in captiuitie, yea, turned from mirth to mourning, from pleasure to paine, from delight to despight, hating thy selfe, and louing her who is the chiefe cause of this thy calamitie. Ah Valericus, hast thou forgot the saying of Propertius, that to loue howsoeuer it be, is to lose, and to fancie, how charie so euer thy choice be, is to haue an ill chance, for Loue though neuer so fickle, is but a Chaos of care, and fancie, though neuer so fortunate, is but a masse of miserie, for if thou inioy the beautie of Venus, thou shalt finde it small vantage, if thou get one as wise as Minerua, thou maiest put thy winninges in thine eye, if as gorgious as Iuno, thy accounts being cast, thy gain shalbe but losse: yea, be she vertuous, be she chast, be she curtuous, be she constant, be she rich, be she renowmed, be she honest, be she honourable, yet if thou be wedded to a woman, thinke thou shalt finde in her sufficient vanitie to counteruaile her vertue, that thy happinesse will be matcht with heauinesse, thy quiet with care, thy contentation with veration: that thou shalt sowe seede with sorrow, and reape thy corne with sadnesse, that thou shalt neuer liue without griefe, nor die without repentaunce, for in matching with a wife there is such mischiefes, and in marriage such miseries, that Craterus the Emperour wishing some sinister fortune to happen vppon one of his foes, praied vnto the Gods, that he might be married in his youth, and die without issue in his age, counting marriage such a cumbersome crosse, and a wife such a pleasant plague, that he thought his foe could haue no worse torment, than to be troubled with such noysome trash. Oh Valericus, if the consideration of these premises bee not sufficient to perswade thee: if the sentence of Propertius cannot quench thy flame, nor the saying of Craterus coole thy fancie, call to minde what miseries, what mischiefes, what woes,

what wailings, what mishaps, what murthers, what care, what calamities haue happened to such, as haue bene besotted with the balefull beautie of women, enioying more care than commoditie, more paine than profite, more cost than comfort, more griefe than good: yea, reaping a tunne of drosse for euerie dramme of perfect gold.

What careleſſe inconſtancie ruled Eriphila? What curriſh crueltie raigned in Philomela? How inceſtuous a life led Aeuropa? And how miſerable was that man that married Sthuolea? What gaines gotte Tereus in winning Progne, but a loathſome death for a little delight. Agamemnon in poſſeſſing the beautie of Crecida, cauſed the Grecian armie moſt grieuouſly to be plagued. Candaules was ſlaine by his murthering wife, whom ſo intirely hee loued. Who was thought more happie than the huſband of Helena, and yet who in time leſſe fortunate? What hapleſſe chaunces inſued of the chaſtitie of Penelope? What broiles in Rome by the vertue of Lucretia? The one cauſed her futors moſt horriblie to be ſlaine, and the other that Tarquine and all his poſteritie were roted out of their regall dignities. Phædra in louing killed her hapleſſe ſonne Hippolitus, and Clitemneſtra in hating ſlewe her louing huſband Agamemnon. Alaſſe Valericus, how dangerous is it then to deale with ſuch dames, which if they loue, they procure thy fatall care: and if they hate thee, thy finall calamitie?

But ah blaſphemous beaſt that I am, thus reckleſly to raile and rage without reaſon, thus curriſhly to exclaime againſt thoſe, without whom our life thogh neuer ſo luckie, ſhould ſeeme moſt loathſome, thus Tymon like, to condemne thoſe heauenly creatures, whoſe only ſight is a ſufficient ſalue againſt all heliſh ſorrowes: is this right, to conclude generally of perticular premiſes? Is it iuſtice to accuſe all for the fault of ſome? Is it equitie to blame the ſtate of vertuous women, for the ſtate of vicious wantons? Doeſt thou thinke Valericus to ſhake off the ſhackles of

fancie with this follie? Or to eschue the baite of beautie, by breathing out such blasphemie? No, no, assure thy selfe, that these thy raging reasons, will in time be most rigorously reuenged, that the gods themselues wil plague thee for brayingout such iniurious speeches. Alasse, Loue wanting desire, maketh the minde desperate: and fired fancie bereaued of loue turneth into furie. The loyall faith I beare to Castania, and the loathsome feare of her ingratitude, the deepe desire which inforceth my hope, & the deadly despaire which infringeth my hap, so tosseth my minde with contrarie cogitations, that I neither regard what I saie to my harme, nor respect what I do, to my owne hurt: yea, my senses are so besotted with pinching loue, and my minde so fretted with frying fancie, that death were thrice more welcome, than thus to linger in despairing hope.

And with that to passe away those pensiue passions, hee flung out of his chamber with his Hawke on his fist, thinking by such sport to driue away this melancholie humor, which so molested his minde.

But as hee was passing through the Court, hee was luckelie encountered by Melytta and Castania, who minding to haue some sporte with Valericus before hee did passe: had the onset thus pleasantlie giuen him by Castania.

IT is hard Signor Valericus (quoth shee) to take you either without your Hawke on your fist, or your heart on your halfepenie, for if for recreation you bee not retriuing the Partridge with dogges, you are in solemne meditation driuing awaie the time with dumpes, neither caring for companie to solace your sadnesse, nor pleasantlie discoursing of some amorous Parle: which makes the Gentlewomen of this Court thinke, that you are either an Apostata to loue, as was Narcissus, or haue displayed the flagge of defiance against fancie, as did Tyanæus. If these their surmised coniectures bee true,

Valericus, I warne thée as a friend to beware by other mens harmes, least if thou imitate their actions, thou be mangled with the like miserie, or maimed with the like misfortune.

Valericus hearing his Saint pronouncing this sugered harmonie, feeling himselfe somewhat toucht with this quipping talke, was so rapt in admiration of her eloquence, and so ravisht in the contemplation of her beautie, that he stood in a maze not able to vtter one word, vntill at last gathering his wits together, hée burst forth in these speeches.

MAdame (quoth he) what it pleaseth the Gentlewomen of this Court to surmise of my solitarinesse I know not, but if they attribute it to curiousnesse, or coinesse, to strangenesse or statelinesse, either that I am an enemie to loue, or a foe to fancie, that I detest their bountie with Narcissus, or contemne their beautie with Tiancus, they offer me great iniurie so rashly to coniecture of my disease, before rightly they haue cast my water. But to put your Ladiship out of doubt what is the cause of my dumpes, so it is that of late raunging the fieldes, my heart (my Hawke I should saie Madame) houered at such a princely praie, and yet mist of her flight, that since shee hath neither prounde her selfe, nor I taken anie pleasure. Marie if the fates should so fauour mee, or fortune so showde me vp in prosperitie, that my desire might obtaine her wish, I would not onelie change my mourning to mirth, my dolour to delight, and my care to securitie, but I wold thinke to haue gotten as rich a praie as euer Cæsar gained by conquest.

SVrely Signor Valericus (quoth Melytta) no doubt the praie is passing princely, since the value thereof is rated at so precious a price, & therefore we haue neither cause to cõdemne your hawke of haggardnes, for want of prouning,

nor you of foolishnesse for want of pleasure. And if your heart (your Hawke I should say, Signior Valericus) hath reacht farther with her eie, than she is able to mount with her wing, although I am no skilfull Fawlkener, yet I thinke you had better keepe her on the fist still, and so feede her with hope, than let her misse againe of her slight, and so she turne taile and be foiled.

Indeed Madame (quoth Valericus) your counsaile is very good, for as there is no better confect to a crazed minde, than hope, so there is no greater corasiue to a careful man, than dispaire, and the Fawlkeners also iumpe with you in the same verdite, that the Hawke which misseth her pray, is doubtfull to soare aloofe and prooue haggard. Yet if she were so tickle, as ye would take no stand, so ramage as she would be reclaimed with no lure, I had rather happely hazard her for the gaining of so peereless a pray, though I both lost her, and wanted of my wish, than by keeping her still in the Bines, to proue her a kite, or me a coward.

In deede Sir (quoth Castania) Fortune euer fauoureth them that are valiant, and thinges the more hard, the more haughtie, high and heauenly: neither is any thing hard to be accomplished, by him that hardly enterpriseth it. But yet take heede that you fish not so faire, that at length you catch a Frogge, and then repentance make you mumble vp a masse with Miserere.

No Madame (quoth he) it is neuer seene that he which is contented with his chance, should euer haue cause to repent him of his choice.

And yet (quoth she) hee that buies a thing to deare, may be content with his chaffer, and yet with he had been more charie.

Trueth Madame (quoth Valericus) but then it is trashe and no treasure, for that which is pretious is neuer suerprised, and a bad thing though neuer so cheape, is thought to chargeable.

Oh Sir (quoth Melytta) and is it not an olde saying, that a man may buy golde to deare, and that iewels thogh neuer so precious, may be set at too high a price. I see if you had no better skill in manning of a Hawke, than in making of a bargaine, you would proue but an ill Faulkner. But since we haue so long troubled you with our talk, we will nowe leaue you to your sport, and so bid you farewell.

Valericus with a courteous Conge, repaying their curtesie, and with a glauncing eie giuing his Goddesse the dolefull Adio, went solitarily into the secret woodes, where laying him downe in the shade, hee fell into these musing meditations.

WHat greater prosperitie (quoth he) can happē vnto any earthly wight, than if he be crossed with care, to finde a confect to cure his calamitie: than if he be pinched with paines, to get a plaister for his passions: if hee be drenched in distresse, to find a meanes to mittigate his miserie, which I see by proofe performed in my seely selfe: for the sight of my Goddesse hath so salued my forepassed sorrowes, her sweet words hath so healed my heauy wounds, that where before I was plūged in perpleritie, I am now placed in felicitie: where before I was oppressed with care, I am now refreshed with comfort. O friendly Fortune, if from henceforth thou furiously frowne vppon mee, if thou daunt mee with disaster mishappe, or crosse mee with perpetuall care, yet thus thy friendlie courtesie shall bee sufficient to counternaile all future enormities.

But alasse, I see euery prosperous puffe hath his boysterous blaste, euery sweete hath his sower, euerie weale his woe, euery gale of good lucke, his storme of sinister fortune: yea, euery commoditie his discommoditie annexed: the bloud of the Viper is most healthfull for the sight, and most hurtfull for the stomacke, the stone Celonites is

very

very precious for the backe, and very perillous to ỹ brain: the flower of India pleasant to be seen, but who so smelleth to it, feeleth present smart: so as the ioy of her presence procureth my delight, the annoy of her absence breedeth my despight: yea, the feare that she wil not repay my loue with liking, and my fancie with affection, that she wil not consent to my request, but rather meanes to stiffle me with the raging stormes of repulse, and daunt me with ỹ dome of deadly denials, so fretteth my hapless minde with hellish furie, that no plague, no paine, no torment, no torture can worse molest me, than to be distressed with this dreadfull despaire.

Alasse, her calling is too high for me to climbe vnto, her royall state is farre aboue my reach, her haughtie minde is too loftie for me to aspire: no doubt if I offer my sute vnto her, she will proue like the stone of Silicia, which the more it is beaten, the harder it is: or like the spices of Ionia, which the more they are pounded the lesse sauour they yeeld, like to the Isiphilon, which yeeldeth foorth no iuice though neuer so well bruised: so, though I should with neuer so great deuotion offer vp at her Shrine, praiers, promises, sighes, sobs, teares, troth, faith, freedome, yea, and my heart it selfe, as a pledge to plead for pittie, yet shee would make so small account of these my cares, and as litle regard my ruth and ruine, as Eriphila did her faithfull friend Infortunio.

But oh vilde wretch that I am, why do I thus without cause condemne Castania? Why do I accuse her of crueltie, in whome raigneth nothing but curtesie? Why doe I appeach her of coinesse, in whom bountie sheweth small curiousnesse?

How friendly, how familiarly, yea, how faithfully did she talke with me, what a cheerefull countenance did shee carry towardes mee, what sodaine glaunces, what louelie lookes, which no doubt are signes, that though shee repulse me at the first, she will not refuse mee at the last:

though she be straight in wordes, shee will not be strange in minde: though she giue me some bitter pilles of deniall, it shall be but for the better triall. And shall I then being fed with this hope proue such a mecocke, or a milkesop, as to be feared with the tempestuous seas of aduersitie, when as at length I shall ariue at the hauen of happie estate: shal I dread to haue my ship shaken with some angry blastes, hoping to be safely landed on the shoare, and so haue my share of that, which the showers of shrewd Fortune for a time hath denied me. No, no, Dulcia non meruit, qui non gustauit amara. He is not worthy to sucke the sweet, which hath not first sauoured the sowre: he is not worthie to eat the kernell which hath not crackt the shell, hee deserueth not to haue the crowne of victorie, which hath not abid the brunt of the battaile: he meriteth not to possesse the pray, which will not willingly take some part of the pray: Neither is he worthy of so heauenly a Dame as Castania, that would not spend the most pretious blood in his body, in the pursuite of so piereleſſe a peece.

VAlericus thus mittigating his paine with the milde medicine of hope, and rooting out the dead flesh of despaire with the plaister of trust, determined to strike on the stith while the yron was hot, and so pursue his purpose while his Mistresse was in her good moode. And therfore leauing his sport for this time, highed him to ỳ Court in hast: where insinuating himselfe into the societie of the Ladies and Gentlewomen, he shewed himselfe in sport so pleasant, in talke so wittie, in maners so modest, in conceites so cunning, in parle so pithie, and in all his conuersation so comely, that whereas before he was specially loued of none, now he was generally liked of all: insomuch that for a time there was no talke in the Court but of the Metamorphosis of Valericus minde. Who oftentimes determining in plaine tearmes to present his sute to Castania, when he came to the point, feare of offence, and dread

of

of deniall, disappointed his purpose, that hee remained mute in the matter: but at last perceiuing delay bred danger, seeing his mistresse sit alone in his presence, houering betweene feare and hope, hee began the assault with this march.

MAdame (quoth he) for that I see you sitting thus solitarie in dumps, I am the bolder to presse in place, although the most vnworthy man to supplie it. Hoping you will pardon my rudenesse for troubling thus rashly your musing meditations, and count my company the lesse offensiue in that I see you busied with no such serious matters whereunto my presence may be greatly preiudiciall. Cyneas the Philosopher, Madam, was of this minde, that when the Gods made beautie, they skipt beyond their skil, in that they framed it of greater force than they thẽselues were able to resist, if then there is none so wise or worthy whom beauty cannot wracke, nor none issued of such princely birth whom beautie cannot bend, though I haue beene intangled with the snare of fancie, and haue listned to the lure of beauty, I am the more to be borne with, and the lesse to be blamed. For I must of force confesse Madame, that the gifts of nature so aboundantly bestowed vpõ you, your excellent beautie and exquisite vertue, haue so scaled the wals of my fancie, and sacked the fort of my freedome, that for my last refuge I am forced to appeale vnto your curtesie, as the onely medicine which may cure my intollerable disease. May incurable I may well call it, for (I speake with teares outwardly, and drops of bloud inwardly) vnlesse the misling showers of your mercie mittigate the fire of my fancie, the droppes of your princely fauour quench the flame of my affection, and the guerdon of your good will giue a soueraigne plaister for my secret sore, I am like to passe my life in more miserie, than if I had taken the infernall torments. But I hope it is not possible, that out of a sugered Fount would distil a bitter streame,

out of a fragrant flower a filthy sap, and from such diuine beautie should proceede hate and hellish crueltie.

It is Madame, your beautie which hath wrought my wo, and it is your bountie which must work my weale. It is your heauenly face which hath depriued me of libertie, and your curteous consent must be the means to redeeme mee from captiuitie: for as hee that eateth of the Braine leake, and is infected, can by no meanes be cured, vnlesse he taste of the same roote: as he which is wounded of ỳ Porcuntine, can neuer be healed vnlesse his wounds be washt with the bloud of the same beast, as there is nothing better against the stinging of a Snake, than to be rubbed with an Adders slough, and as he which is hurt of the Scorpion seeke a salue from whom he receiued the sore, so loue onely is remedied by loue, and fancie by mutuall affecion: you Madame, must minister the medicine, which procured the maladie, and it onely lies in your power to applie the plaister which inferred the paine.

Therefore I appeale to your good grace and fauour, and at the barre of your beautie I humbly holde vp my handes, resting to abide your sentence, either of consent vnto life, or deniall vnto death.

CAstania hearing this solemne discourse of Valericus, was driuen into a maze with this vnlookt for motion, musing that he would so farre ouershoote himselfe, as to attempt so vnlikely a match, and therefore with disdainfull countenance she gaue him this daunt.

AS your present arriuall Signor Valericus doth not greatly preiudice my muses, so I think it will as litle profit your motion, and as your company pleaseth mee regarding the person, so it much misliketh me, respecting the parle: that your counts being once cast, you shall find your absence might haue more pleasured you, and better contented me. For it is vnpossible Valericus, to call the Fawlkon

to

to that Lure wherein the pens of a Camelion are pricked, because she doth deadly detest them, it is hard to traine the Lyon to that trappe which sauoureth of Diagredium, because he loatheth it. And it is as impossible to perswade me to enter league with fancie, which am a mortall foe to affection, and to vow my seruice to Venus, which am already addicted to Diana. No, no sir, I meane not to loue least I liue by the losse, nor to choose, least my skil being small, I repent my chance. Shee that is free and willingly runneth into fetters is a foole, and who so becommeth captiue without constraint, may be either thought wilfull or witlesse. It is good by other mens harmes to learn to beware, and to looke before a man doth leape, least in skipping beyond his skill, he light in the mire. Who so considereth the ficklenesse of mens affections, and the fleeting fondnesse of their fading fancie, who carefully looketh at the lightnesse of their loue, and marketh the inconstancie of their waneing minde, who readeth the records which make mention of their deepe dissembling, faithlesse protestations, false vowes, periured promises, fained loue, & forged flatterie: how poore Ariadne was abused, how Medea was mocked, how Dido was deceiued, how Oenone was reiected, and how Phillis was forsaken, and yet would be allured to the traine with such filthy scraps, I would count her chaunce too good, were her choice neuer so bad. But leauing these necessarie doubtes, Valericus, I tell you for troth, if I meant to loue, it is not you I meane to like, if affection forced me, it is not your person I meane to fancie, your patrimonie is not sufficient to counteruaile my parentage, nor your bringing vp my birth, and therfore I would wish you to sow the seede of your sute in a more fertile soile, for in me you shal find no grafts of grant to grow, nor no consent to be cropped, for I neither like of your vnlikely loue, nor meane not to be framed to your fancie.

Valericus being pushed with this pike, thought it a signe of small courage to yeeld at the first foine, and there-

fore looking more narrowly to his ward, and gathering himselfe within his weapon, he stood to his tackling with this reply.

MAdame (quoth he) if you condemne me of folly for climbing a staffe too high, or accuse mee of fondnesse for laying my loue on a person of such princely parentage, if I seeme to make an ill market in cheaping such precious chaffer, as the price thereof is far aboue my reach, yet my offence is too small to beare any waighty penance, sith where the fault proceedeth of loue, there the pardon insueth of course, but your beautie shall beare all the blame, as the onely spurre of this my rash enterprise. For as it is impossible for the yron to resist the operation of the Adamant, or the silly strawe the vertue of the sucking ieat, so as impossible it is for a louer to withstand the brunt of beautie, to freeze if he stand by the flame, or to peruert the lawes of nature. So that Madame if you knewe what a breach your beautie hath made into my breast, and howe deepely I haue shrined the idol of your person in my hapless heart, I assure my selfe though my person and parentage, my birth & bringing vp be farre vnfit for such a mate: yet you would deeme my loue and loyaltie to deserue no lesse. Loyaltie I call it Madame, for all thinges are not made of one mould, so all men are not of one minde, as the Serpentine pouder is quickly kindled, and quickly out, so the Salamander stone once set on fire can neuer be quenched, as the soft ware is apt to receiue euery impression, so the hard mettall neuer chãgeth forme without melting. Iason was neuer so trouthlesse as Troylus was truthie: Paris was neuer more fickle then Pyramus was faithfull: Aeneas was neuer so light as Leander was faithfull: And sure Madame, I call the Gods to witnesse, I speake without faining, that sith your beautie and vertue eyther by fate or fortune is so deepely shrined in my heart, if it please you to accept mee for your slaue or seruaunt,

and

and admit me so far into your fauour, as that I may freely enioy the sight of your sweet face, and feed my fancie in the contemplation of your beautie, in lieue thereof, I will repaie such dutifull seruice, as the betrothed faith of Erasta to his Persida, shall not compare with the loue of Valericus and Castania.

CAstania hearing these perplexed passions proceed from wofull Valericus, pricked forwarde to take some remorse of his torments, felt within her minde a carefull conflict betweene fancie and the fates, loue and the destinies: fancie perswaded her to take pitie of his paines, the fates forced her to giue him the repulse: loue wisht her to returne his good will with gaine, the destinies drawe her to denie his request, tossed thus with contrarie cogitations, at last she burst forth into these doubtfull speeches.

VAlericus, as I am not altogether to rewarde thy good will with hate, so I cannot repaie it with loue, because fancie denies me to like: to marry I meane not, to retaine seruants I may not. Marie, to let thee either to loue, or loke, take this for an answere, I neither can nor will.

And with that she went her way, leauing Valericus greatly daunted with this doubtfull answere, with feare and hope so fiercely assailed, that being left alone, he began thus to consider of his amorous conceits.

IF euer wofull creature had cause to complaine his wofull case, then vndoubtedly may I preace for the formost place, for there is no sorrow more sower, no torment more terrible, no grief more grieuous, no heauinesse more hurtfull, then to haue desire requited with despight, and good will with hate, then to like vpon hope of curtesie, and to finde nothing but hate and hellish cruelties.

Alasse poore Valericus, is thy true loue thus triflingly

accounted of, this is the guerdon for thy good will: Doth thy deepe desire merite no better desert, then hast thou no choice, but either to dye desperately, or else to liue loathsomely? Why fond fole, doest thou count her cruell, that at the first giues not a free consent? Doest thou thinke her coy that commeth not at the first call, wouldest thou haue the match made at the first motion? She that is wonne with a word, will be lost with a winde, the Hawke that bates at euerie cast of the Lure, will neuer be steadfast on the fonde, the woman that frameth her will to euerie wish, will proue but a wilde wanton. No, no, Valericus, let not her denials daunt thee, let not the sower taste of her talke quat thy queasie stomacke, consider all thinges at the best, though her censure was verie seuere, yet she knit vp her talke with a curteous close. The hound which at the first default giueth ouer the chase, is called but a curre. The knight that finding the first encounter combersome, giueth ouer the queft, is counted but a cowarde, and the louer that at the first denial is daunted with despaire, is neither worthie to obtaine his desire, nor enioy his desert. And with that he flung out of his Chamber, both to auoid the melancholie which tormented his minde, and see if he could haue a sight of his Goddesse.

But Castania altogether vnwilling to parle with her new patient, kept her selfe out of his sight, which Valericus espying, was no whit amazed, but like a valiant souldiour gaue the fort a fresh assault with a new kinde of batterie, seeking to obtaine that with writing, which he could not gaine with words, and therefore speedely framed a letter to this effect.

Seignor Valericus, to the
Ladie Castania, health.

THere is no creature (Madame Castania) so bereaued of reason, or depriued of sence, which being oppressed with direfull calamities, findeth not by mere instinct of nature,

nature, a present medicine for his maladie, man onely excepted, who by reason of this want, may iustly accuse the iniurious Gods of iniustice. The Tiger though neuer so deadly wounded, tasteth the roote of Tamariske, and is presently cured: The Deare being stroken, though neuer so deepe, feedeth on the hearbe Dictamum, and forthwith is healed: the Lyon saueth his sickneſſe by eating the Sea Wolfe, and the Unicorne recouereth his health by swallowing vp the buds of a Date tree. But man being crossed with care, or oppressed with griefe, pinched with fancie, or perplexed with loue, findeth no hearbe so wholesome, nor medicine so milde, no plaister so perfect, nor no salue so soueraigne, which by their secrete vertues can appeaſe his passions. Which Madame, I know by proofe, & now speake by experience, for your diuine beautie and secret vertue, the perfection of your bodie and the bountie of your minde, hath kindled such a flaming fire in my hapleſſe heart, that by no meanes it may be quenched, but will turne my bodie into drie earth and sinders, vnleſſe by the drops of your pittie it be speedely redreſſed. Then Madame, sith your beautie is my bale, let it be my bliſſe, since it hath wrought my woe, let it worke my weale, and let not my faithfull seruice and loyall loue be recompenced with such rigorous refusals. Striue not for my life, since you haue my libertie, seeke not my death, since you are the Saint to whom I offer vp my deuotion. But good Madame, let the sweete Balme of your benevolence salue the sore which so painfully afflicteth my carefull conſcience, and with the dealne of your grace redeem him from moſt helliſh miſerie, whoſe life and death standeth in your answere, which I hope shal be such as belongeth to the desert of my loue, and the shew of your beautie.

Yours if he be
Don Valericus.

Valericus

Valericus hauing thus finished his Letter, sent it with as much speede as might be by his Page to Castania, who finding her at conuenient leisure, with most reuerent dutie deliuered it. Castania at the first sight coniecturing the contents, with scornful lookes and disdainfull countenance vnripped the seales, where seeing and reading his deepe deuotion, she perceiued that his affection was no lesse in deede, than he professed in word, she notwithstanding would take no remorse of his tormēt, but to driue him more into dolefull dumpes, she returned him this dampe.

Castania, to Signor
Valericus.

AS it is impossible (Signor Valericus) to straine moist licour out of the drie flint, to procure flaming heate in that which alreadie is nipped with chilling colde, to force the sturdie streames to run against their common course, so as hard it is to win vnwilling loue, either with teares or truth. For if thy birth and patrimonie could countervaile my parentage, if my father were content to knit vp the knot, yet neither his command nor thy intreatie should not make me to chose without my owne loue and liking. Sith then thou art the man whome I rather loathe than like, cease from thy sute, make a vertue of necessitie, and assuage the flame thy selfe which no other wil quench. By importunate persisting in thy purpose where no hope is, thou prouest thy selfe rather a desperate sot than a discrete souldiour. To hop against the hill, is extreame fondnesse, to striue against the streame, meere follie, then Valericus, auoyde the one, and eschue the other, for if thou wilt seeke to gaine my good will, thou shalt turne the endlesse stone with Sisiphus, and therefore take my naye for answer. For if I would I cannot, and if I could I wil not. And so farewell.

No way yours,
Castania.

Valericus

VAlericus hauing receiued this rigorous letter from ruthlesse Castania, seeing with what great disdain she reiected his dutifull deuotion, and how with coy countenance and lowring lookes, she rewarded his loyall loue, he began with reason somwhat to represse his rage, and with wisedome to redresse his witlesse folly, for comparing her crueltie with his owne curtesie, and her wilfull disdaine, with his willing dutie, his disordinate desire beganne not onely to decay, but his extreame loue turned to extreame hate, insomuch that forced with despight, he sent her in reuenge, these raging lines.

Valericus the despised, to despightfull Castania.

DIogenes being demanded why so extreamely he hated women, answered, because (quoth he) they be women: so if thou aske of mee why so rudely I raile against thy reckelesse follie, I answere, because thou art Castania, whose mercilesse minde is so misled with ingratitude, and whose currish nature is foyled with careless inconstancie, that like Menechmus Supreptus his wife, thou doest not begin to loue, ere againe thou seekest to hate. Thou plaiest Castania, like the yong Eagles, which being hatched vp by the bird Osyphaga, neuer seeke to peark on loftie Mounts, but to bit in durtie Dales, and like the greedie kite which leaueth the sweete flesh, to praie on the stincking carrion. But why do I so farre forget my selfe? Is she to be blamed that leaueth her choyce to haue a better chaunce, or is the Faulchon to be accused of bastardie, that lequeth the Starling to praie on the Larke: no: and no doubt such is thy case, for if it be true that all speaketh, or at the least suspecteth, thou art like by thy louers parentage to become a great Potentate: for if armes be the bewrayer of auncient discents, no doubt hee is come of an olde house. Yea,

thy father Orlanio may reioyce if he liue to sée the day that his daughter shall be so well wedded as to such a wrangling wisard. But Pasiphae preferred a Bull before a king, and Venus a smeared Smith before Mars the God of battaile. Tush, Psomneticus was father to Rhodopes children, whosoeuer begat them, and that cloake is of a course spinning, that cannot kéepe off the raine. Farewell.

Liuing he hopes to reuenge thy iniuries.

Wofull Valericus.

CAstania no sooner had read these despitefull lines of Valericus, but her minde fried with the flames of furie, and her breast boyled with raging wrath, in such sort, that she could not be in quiet nor take any rest, she busied her selfe so carefully in studying with what kinde of reuenge she might best wreake her wrath vppon him, and requite his spitefull spéeches. At last womanlike, she found her tongue the best weapō, and with that she plagued him in this sort.

Castania to Valericus, neither health nor good hap.

THe Mastiffe Dogge (Valericus) can neuer quest like a Spaniell, but he must alwaies barke like a Curre, it is naturall for the Pie to chatter, for the Jaye to iangle, and for thée to raile and rage like a frantike foole. Doest thou thinke (Valericus) by brawling like a beggar to become a King, or by thy moodlesse follie to obtaine my fauour, no, as I know thy knauerie, so I passe not for thy brauerie: neither can those vauntes stand for paiment, where the partie is prickt for a péeuish paltering patch. It is no maruaile if thy doggish Leiters sauour of Diogenes doctrine, for in troth thou art such a Cinicall kind of dunce,

that thy fonde felicitie is in biting bitterlie those, whome otherwise thou canst not reuenge. In deede, gentle Balaams Asse, if I had bene so light as to haue loued you, I might iustly haue bene accused to haue bene a Curre or a Kistrell, for in faith she that feedes her fancie on thy face, may onely reape this profite, to fill her eyes full with the figure of a foole. For my louers armes, Valericus, they are imblased in such a coate, as it is hard for thée to controll. But I know thou boastest that thou hast gotten thy antiquitie by conquest, and keepest thy Letters pattents in the beggars bore. Thus adieu sir dunce, the more you mislike me, the better I loue my selfe.

Thy detested foe,
Castania.

VAlericus his heart was so hardned with hate, as he was nothing dismaied with this rigorous replie, but thought himselfe halfe satisfied, that he had thus kindlie toucht her to the quicke, praying the Gods, that sith it was not in his possibilitie to make any sufficient reuenge, they would by some sinister meanes requite her crueltie. But leauing him to his dumpes, at last to Gwydonius, who besides the beautie of his bodie, and the bountie of his minde (whereat all Alexandria wondered) had by good gouernment and perfect practise, obtained such a dexteritie in all things, as in feates of armes no man more forward, in exercise none more active, in plaie none more politicke, in parle none more pleasant, amongst his auncients verie wise, amongst the youthfull who more merrie: so that there was no time, person, nor place, whereto aptlie hee applied not himselfe: insomuch that he entered into such fauour and familiaritie with Thersandro & Castania, that he was the onelie man whose companie they desired to enioy. But especiallie Castania, who by casting a gazing glaunce sometime vppon the beautie of Gwydonius,

felt a certaine restraint of libertie in her affections, an alteration of minde, and as it were a ciuile assault within her selfe: but hauing small practise in the panges of loue, she could not coniecture the secret cause of these her sodain passions, thinking that as it was a toye lightly taken, so it would as lightly be left: and vpon this still she rested, conceiuing onelie an ordinarie kinde of liking towardes Gwydonius.

Who bathing thus in the streames of blisse, and safelie harboured in the hauen of happinesse, wanting nothing which might content his minde, either for pleasure or profit, thought it a point of meere follie either to seeke or wish for more than inough, knowing that to strain further than the sleeue would stretch, was but to make the arme bare, and to skippe beyond a mans skill, was to leape, but not to know where to light: to auoyd therefore hastinesse in hazarding, he fel a slumbering in the careless seat of securitie.

But as it is impossible for a man to sleepe by the viper and not be inuenomed, to gaze vppon the Cockatrice and not be infected, to stare vppon the Sunne and not be dazled, to loke vpon Medusas head and not be transformed, to wade in the waues and not be drenched, to handle coales and not be scorched, so it was as impossible for yong Gwydonius to gaze vpon the beautie of Castania and not be galled, to fire his eyes vpon her feature and not be fettered, to see her vertuous qualilities and not be inueigled: for her curtesie had so encountred him, her modestie had so amazed him, and her charie chastitie so inchaunted him, that whereas he came to Orlanio his Court free from affection, he was now become a seruile slaue to fancie, before a foe to lust, now a friend to loue, yea, he felt such an alienation of his senses, and such a straunge Metamorphosis of his minde, as reason was turned to rage, mirth to mourning, ioy to annoy, delight to despight, weale to woe, blisse to bale: in fine, such contrary passions so perplexed the doubt-

full Patient, as maugre his face hée yeelded the forte to fancie, and puld in the former flagge of defiance, intreated for truce, and beganne to enter parle with Cupide on this manner.

O Gwydonius (quoth hee) what ſtrange chaunce, nay what rare chaunge, what ſolemne motion, nay, what ſodaine madneſſe, what fooliſh frenzie, or rather what frantike affection hath poſſeſſed thee? Is thy lawleſſe libertie turned to a ſlauiſh captiuitie? Is thy freedome fettered? Are thy ſenſes beſotted? Is thy wit inueigled? Wert thou of late a defier of Venus, and art thou now a defender of vanitie? Didſt thou of late renounce beautie as a foe, and wilt thou now embrace her as a friend? Is this the carefull keeping of thy fathers commaundement? Or is this the diligent dutie in obſeruing the counſaile of thy old ſire Clerophontes? Haſt thou ſo ſoone forgot his fatherlie preceptes, or committed to obliuion his friendly aduertiſement? Did hee carefully warne thee to beware of loue, and wilt thou careleſſie wed thy ſelfe to luſt? Did hee ſhewe thee what poyſoned bane is hidden vnder the painted baites of beautie, and wilt thou be haled to the hooke?

O hapleſſe caſe: nay rather, if the chary charge thy father gaue thee will be no conſtraint, if his counſaile will not commaund thee, if his warning will not make thee wary, nor his aduiſe be thy aduiſement: yet let imminent perils, and inſuing dangers be a precious preſeruatiue againſt future calamities. Cõſider with thy ſelf Gwydonius, what difference is betwéene frædome and bondage, betweene libertie and captiuitie, mirth and mourning, pleaſure and paine, reſt and care, happineſſe and heauineſſe: and ſo far doth he which is free from affection, differ from him which is fettered in fancie.

Why but Gwydonius, why doeſt thou thus reckleſſy rage againſt reaſon? Why doeſt thou thus fondly exclaime

claime agaynſt thine owne welfare? Why doeſt thou condemne thy ſelfe of that crime wherof thou art not guiltie?

Thy father warned thée to beware of fickle fancie, but this thy liking is firme affection. His counſayle was to perſwade thée from lewd luſt, but not from lawfull loue, from vanitie, not from vertue: yea, his will was to wiſhe thée from liking ſuch a lewd minió, who had neither birth, wealth, nor vertue, but a little fading beauty to be either her credite or thy countenance, not to warne thee from louing ſuch a chaſt maiden, nay, a peereleſſe Princeſſe, whoſe birth may countenance thy calling, whoſe power may promote thée, whoſe liuinges may inrich thée, whoſe vertue may aduance thée: yea, in obtaining whom, thou ſhalt gain both honour, and perhappes the inheritaunce of a Dukedome.

Doeſt thou think then Gwydonius, in winning ſo worthie a peece, to purchace thy fathers diſpleaſure, nay aſſure thy ſelfe he will not onely be content with thy chance, but hee will thinke thou haſt runne a happier race, than Hyppomanes did in winning Atlante. Content with thy chance. Why Gwydonius, art thou ſo fond a fole, as to count the Caſtle ionquered, that as yet thou haſt not compaſſed: to ſuppoſe the Citie ſacked, which thou haſt not beſieged: to thinke the Bulwarke beaten, which as yet thou haſt not battered: or to count the Lady wonne, whom as yet thou haſt not woed. Nay Gwydonius, if thou weigh thy caſe in the equal ballance, thou haſt more cauſe of feare than of hope, of doubt than of aſſurance, of miſſing thy pretence, than of obtaining thy purpoſe.

The Faulkon (Gwydonius) ſeldome pearketh with the Merline, the Lyon ſeldome lodgeth with the Mouſe, the Hart ſeldome feedeth with the Pricket, Aquila non capit Muſcas, and a Dame indued with Nobilitie, vouchſafeth not to match with a man of meane Gentilitie. Of meane Gentilitie Gwydonius? Yea truely, for Caſtania rather

thinketh

thinketh thée sprong of some poore peasant, than of anie princely personage.

Besides, alasse Fortune her selfe denieth me any such fauour, my good will as yet hath deserued no such guerdon, my desire is farre aboue my desertes, my ambition aboue my condition, and the poore stay of wandering Gwydonius, farre vnfit for the princely state of worthy Castania. But put case she did will as I did, wish that she were pricked in the same veine, caught in the same snare, trapped with the like traine, and fired with the like fancie, yet the duke her father will neither condescend to her minde, nor consent to my motion, neyther thinke well of her liking nor of my loue, nay if he should but once heare of such reckelesse folly, as he hath wrought my promotion, so he would worke my confusion, as hée hath béene my friend, so he would be my foe, and in troth Gwydonius, not without cause, for art thou so voyd of vertue, or vowed to vice, so nursed vp in vanitie, or nusled vp in villanie, as to requite his liberalitie with such disloyaltie, to returne the trust which he reposeth in thée with such treason. Tush, Loue is aboue Lord or Lawe, friend or faith. Where Loue leadeth, no maister is made account of: no king cared for, no friend forced of, no dutie respected, but all thinges done according to the qualitie thet is predominant. Why Gwydonius, what doubts are these ý thou thus dreamest on? Why doest thou cast beyond the Moone, and feare before thou art in daunger to fall: knowing that Loue and fortune desireth not them that are dastardes, nor careth for them that are cowardes. The Captaine that retyreth from the walles before hée hath the repulse, shall neuer returne a conquerour, the Souldiour that fainteth before the battaile be fought, shall neuer vaunt himselfe of victorie. Hée that feareth euery tempest is not fit to be a trauailer. He that doubteth euery waue shall neuer proue a perfect Pilot, and he that in loue dreadeth euery chip of mischance, may well encounter, but neuer obtaine the conquest.

Sith then Gwydonius, hardie venturing is a signe of happie victory, sound out the march with the trumpet of trust, begin the assault, giue the onset. Laie the battering pieces of loue, against the bulwarke of beautie, and no doubt thy successe shall be such as thou shalt triumph with Cæsar, and say, Veni, Vidi, Vici. And art thou so presumptuous fond foole, as to promise thy selfe the conquest, knowest thou not that the path of loue is perillous? And with that he fell into such melancholie passions, such contrary cogitations, such doubtfull thoughtes, such fearefull supposes, that as he which eateth of the Gwde roote looseth his memorie, and as the Elephant when he eateth of the Heliotropion leafe, is then verie sleepie, so Gwydonius was so perplexed with these vnacquainted passions, that contrarie to his custome he had driuen myrth into mourning, pleasant conceites into painfull cares, laughing into lowring, singing into sorrow, as being thus besotted, to solace himselfe, he went into a Parke adioyning to the Dukes Pallace, where sitting vnder the shade of a Beech tree, leaning his head on his hand, he lay as one in a slumber. But fortune willing somewhat to fauour this young nouice, brought it to passe, that Thersandro, Valericus, Castania, and Melytta, with diuerse other Gentlemen, where for recreation sake ranging in the same Parke, who espying ghostly Gwydonius, sitting as one in a trance, Castania passing before the rest, pulling him by the sleeue, drew him thus out of his dumpe.

WHy how now Gwydonius (quoth shee) are you dreaming or doubting, or is your minde musing vppon some metaphusicall motions, that you sit thus as a man halfe mortified, your solemne iesture makes me remember the picture of Pigmalion which once I sawe portraied out by a skilfull painter, who leaning his head on his Marble mistres (that so vnfainedly he loued) sate with his eies as one in a slumber, hauing his face notwithstanding so bedewed

with

with brinish teares, as his outward plaints did sufficiently bewray his inward passions. In trueth Gwydonius, I had taken thee for Pigmalion, if thou hadst had teares, as thou wert in a trance, for thou doest not greatly differ from him neither in countenaunce nor colour: weil if it were but a dreame Gwydonius, that thus cumbred thy cõscience, or a doubt that made thee thus dispish, I wil deuine the one if it be not too dark, or decide the other if it be not too secret, marry if the case bee cumbersome, I leaue it to the iudgement of these Gentlemen.

GWydonius wakened out of his musing slumber with this sugered harmonie, seeing before his eies his gorieous Goddesse, the very saint, at whose shrine he was offering vp scalding sighes, far fetcht sobs, plaints, prayers, and protestations, was so apald with her presence, that as the Basilisk looseth his senses with the sight of a naked man, as the Tortetise seeing the North star is benũmed, as the Hermeline looking on the stone Echites is greatly amazed, so Gwydonius seeing the incomparable beautie of his best beloued Castania, was so astonished, yea, so inchanted with the rare perfection of this heauenly Pallas, that as one besotted hee sate senseleese, not being able to vtter one word, vntill at length reuiued with the view of her cheerfull countenance, he repaid her with this pleasant answer.

MAdame (quoth hee) whereas iestingly you say, that at the first sight you had taken me for perplexed Pigmalion by my pittifull plaints and carefull countenance, but that I wãted trickling tears to decipher my sorrow, I answer, that wo may very wel be without watry wailings, for when the stone Garatides frieth without, it freezeth within, the Germander leafe, when it is most full of moisture, looketh then most drie, where the streame is most deep, there it is most still, and where is the smallest shew of teares, there is the greatest signe of sorrow. And also

I call the heauens to witnesse, that when you wakened me out of my dreame by your diuine eloquence, I took you either for beautie to be Venus, for comelinesse to be Pallas, or for port and honour to be Iuno, so that both your presence and curtesie danted my minde, your presence in dazeling my eyes so sodainly with so solemne a sight, your curtesie, in that your Ladyship without curiositie would douchsafe to talke with so meane a Gentleman. But Madame, sith that I perceiue your skill in nauigation to be great, in that you made so cunning a coniecture, and without any great aiming, so rightly hitte the marke, to put you out of doubt, I confesse I was both in a dreame and a doubt, wherin sith it pleaseth your honor to take so much paine, I will craue your ayde to deuine the one, and decide the other.

The Dreame.

I Was walking (Madame Castania) in my dreame (as I supposed) solitarily by the sea side, whereas I tooke delight to see the Dolphins leape, (which as the Marriners say, is a signe of imminent tempest) I forthwith espied a rocke in the Sea, whereupon stoode a Ladie arayed with roabes of burnisht golde, so formed and framed, so adorned and decked with the gifts of Nature, as at the first I toke her to be Thetis, that had so gorgiously clad her selfe, to welcome home her louer and Lord Neptunus. But viewing her countenance more narrowly, I perceiued her to be a mortall creature (though vnworthie such diuine beautie should be shrouded in the substance of an earthly carcasse) which so inflamed my affection, so fired my fancie, and so kindled my desire, that the tormentes of Tantalus, the torture of Ixion, the sorrow of Sisiphus, were not halfe comparable to the perplexed passions that pinched my hapless heart, when I sawe all hope cut away from inioying this

earthly

earthly Goddesse, the sea which compassed the rocke was so deepe and dangerous, the cliffes so steepe-downe & feare-full, as to descend was no lesse danger then death it selfe: thus as I surged in griefe, and wandered vp and down in woe, I spied a bridge a farre off, whereby was a passage to the rocke, which sight so saued my forepassed sorrow, and so reuiued my daunted minde, as I was driuen into an extasie for ioy, to see so good meanes to enioy my wished desire. Comming to the bridge, I found it built of glasse so cunningly & so curiously, as if Nature her self had sought to purchase credit by framing so curious a peece of workmanship. But yet so slēderly, as ỹ least waight was able to pash it into innumerable peeces, and vnderneath the bridge did runne so terrible a sea, such bouncing billowes, such tumbling waues, such fearefull surges, such roaring streames, such hideous goulfs, as it made the passage seeme a thousand times more perillous. This terrible sight was such a coling Card to my former conceits, as hope was turned to feare, blisse to bale, and supposed happinesse to assured heauinesse. And yet my fancie was not quenched, but rather far the more inflamed, my desire was not diminished, but augmented, and my liking no lesse, but rather inlarged, so that to liue in loue without hope was lothsome, to seeke redresse was losse of life, to want my wish, was horror: to inioy my wil, was hel: to liue in care without cōfort, was calamity: to seek for cure, was more than misery: not to possesse the pray, was hellish daunger: to venture for the prize, was haples death. Thus crossed with cares, & danted with such diuers doubts, desperate hope so repulsed direful feare, that encouraged by ventrous desire, I had either obtained my wish, or wanted of my wil, if your Ladiship had not so sodainly wakened me out of my slumber. Thus Madame Castania, you haue heard my dreame, now the doubt is, whether it had been better to haue ventured vppon the brickle bridge, & so either desperately to haue ended cares with death, or else valiantly to haue enioyed desire with

renowne, or still like a fearefull dastard to haue ended my dayes in lingering loue with miserie.

Castania hearing the surmised dreame of Gwydonius, both smelled the fetch, and smiled at the folly of this yong youth, knowing that these fantasticall visions and presupposed passions, would in time (if he tooke not heede) proue but too true, to preuent therefore such imminent perils, she nipt her young nouice on the pate with this parle.

Gwydonius (quoth shee) I haue listened to thy drousie dreame, with deep deuotion, by so much the more desirous attentiuely to heare it, by how much the more I find it strange and wonderfull: yea, so strange, as if I my selfe had not wakened thee out of thy slumber, I would either haue thought it a fained vision, or a fantasticall inuention, but sith these Gentlemen here present, and mine owne eyes are witnesses, and thyne owne tongue a testimonie of thy talke, suffice I beleeue it, though I cannot diuine it: to giue a verdit where the euidence is not vnderstood, is vanitie: to yeeld a reason of an vnknowne case, is mere folly: and to interpret so strange a dreame without great practise, is but to skip beyond my skill, and to lye fast in the mire. Yet least I might seeme to promise much and performe nothing, I will decide your doubt, if you please to take my doome for a censure.

It is a saying Gwydonius, not so common as true, that the hastie man neuer wantes woe, and that hee which is rash without reason, seldome or neuer sleepeth without repentance. To venture amidst the Pikes when perilles cannot bee eschewed, is not fortitude but follie, to hazard in daungers, when death insueth, is not to be worthelie minded, but wilfully moued. Vertue alwaies consisteth betweene extremities, that as too much fearefulnesse is the signe of a quaking coward, so too much rashnes betokeneth a desperate Ruffian. Manhoode Gwydonius consisteth in measure & worthinesse, in fearing to hazard without hope.

But to giue a verdit by thine owne voice, I perceiue thou art guiltie of the same crime, for when the brickleneſſe of the bridge portendeth, and the ſurging ſeas inferred loſſe of life, yet deſire draue thée to aduenture ſo deſperate a danger.

Better it is Gwydonius, to liue in griefe, then to dye deſperately without grace: better to chooſe a lingering life in miſerie, then a ſpeedie death without mercie, better to be tormented with hapleſſe fancie, thē with helliſh fiends, for in life it is poſſible to repreſſe calamity, but after death neuer to redreſſe miſerie. Tully Gwydonius in his Tuſculans queſtions, diſcourſing of the happineſſe of life and heauineſſe of death, ſaith, that to liue we obtaine it of the louing Gods, but to dye, of the vnluckie deſtinies: meaning hereby, that life though neuer ſo loathſome, is better then death, though neuer ſo welcome: whereby I conclude Gwydonius, that to liue carefully, is better then to die deſperately.

Gwydonius perceiuing that Caſtanias parle was nothing to the purpoſe, and that ſhee toucht not that point whereof he deſired moſt to be abſolued, but meant to ſhake him off with a ſleeueleſſe anſwere, began to drawe her to the Trap with this traine.

MAdame Caſtania (quoth he) I confeſſe that raſhneſſe neuer raigneth without repentance, nor haſtie hazarding without hapleſſe harmes, that he which aduentureth deſperate dangers is a fole, and he that paſſeth inceuitable perils is worſe than an Aſſe: yet from theſe ſo generall rules, Madame, I exempt theſe perticular exceptions, namely Loue and Neceſſitie, which two are tied within no bonds, nor limited within no law, for whom the diuell driues he muſt nedes runne, be the paſſage neuer ſo perilous: and whom Loue or Neceſſitie forceth, he muſt venture be the daunger neuer ſo deſperate: for as there is no enterpriſe ſo eaſie, which to an vnwilling man ſeemeth not

verie hard to be atchiued, so there is no encounter so cumbersome where will wilheth, that seemeth not passing easie to be performed, now this will is with nothing soner pricked forward, than either with the force of loue, or sting of necessitie. So that whosoeuer aduentureth in a danger, though neuer so desperate, is not to be blamed, if inforced by fancie, or incouraged by affection, and especially where the perill is in possibilitie to be passed without death, and in the performance thereof, the possession of such a price, as the passionate person more esteemeth than landes, limbs, or life it selfe, be it neuer so sweet. In which case (Madame) my cause consisteth. For the Ladie who was an heauenly obiect to my glazing eyes, was so beautified with the gifts of nature, and so perfectly polished with more than naturall perfection, that with the onelie view of such diuine beautie, my senses were so besotted, my wit and will so inueigled, my affection so inflamed, and my freedome so fettered, yea, loue alreadie hath made so great a breach into the bulwarke of my breast, that to obtaine so gorgious a Goddesse, I thought death no daunger, though neuer so direfull, nor losse of life no torment, though neuer so terrible.

Indeed Gwydonius, (quoth Therlandro) I agree with thee in this point, that there is no carpet Knight so cowardly, that would not passe most perillous pikes to possesse so lively a Dame as thou doest decipher, nor no bastarde so daunted with dread, which would not greatlie indanger himselfe to enioy so louely a damsell, in the fruition of whome consisteth nothing but ioy, blisse, rest, contentation of minde, delight, happinesse, yea, all earthlie felicitie.

And yet Sir (quoth Gwydonius) your sister Castania, condemnes me of follie, in ventring for so precious a price, when as hope perswaded mee, that no hazard could be hapelesse, and allured me that Loue and Fortune fauoureth them that are bolde: that the Gods themselues seeing

my perplexed passions, would of pittie defend me from those perillous daungers. For if Theseus by Diuine power, were ayded against the force of the monstrous Minotaure, or if Iason, who constrained with a couetous desire to obtaine the golden Fleece, arriuing at Colchos, was preserued by the Gods, from the dint of the deadly Dragons, no doubt Iupiter himselfe would either haue made the staggering bridge more strong (considering that no hope of wealth, no desire of riches, no greedinesse of gaine, no loue of lucre, but beautie her selfe was the victorie I meant to vaunt off,) or else if I had sowsed in the roaring Seas, hee would haue prouided some happie Dolphin, that Arion like, I might arriue at the desired Rocke: and then my daungers should haue bene turned into delight, my perils into pleasures, my hazarding into happinesse: yea, I should haue possessed that heauenly paragon, and enioyed the loue of that louely Venus, whose onely sight were a sufficient salue, against all forepassed sorrowes.

Staie there Maister Gwydonius (quoth the Ladie Melytta) for I see to grant one false proposition, is to open a doore to innumerable absurdities, and that by suffring you to long, of these supposed premisses, you will inferre some cauilling conclusion to your former reasons: thus I reply. That I confesse necessitie to haue no law, but I grant not the same of Loue: for if it be lawlesse, it is lewde: if without limits, lasciuious: if contained within no boundes, beastly: if obserued with no order, odious: so that lawlesse Loue without reason, is the verie Load-stone to ruth and ruine.

With then Maister Gwydonius, as your selfe affirme, this was the pricke that pusht you into perill, how can the effect be good, when the cause was naught, or how can you clarkely defend your desperate motion, proceeding of such a fond and foolish occasion. But it was the perfection of her comelie person, her exquisite feature, and rare beautie, that so kindled thy desire, and so bewitched thy sences; for, who

is so fearefull that beautie will not make bolde: who so doubtfull, that beautie will not make desperate: yea, what so hard that a man will not hazard, to obtaine so diuine a thing, as beautie.

Oh Gwydonius, hast thou not heard that the Fish Remora, listening to the sound of a Trumpet is caught of the Fishers, that while the Porcupine standeth staring at the glimmering of the starres, he is ouertaken with dogges, that the Deare gazing at the bow is striken with the bolt, that the Leopard loking at the Panthers painted skinne, is taken as a praie, and that he which taketh too much delight to gaze vpō beautie, is oftentimes galled with griefe and miserie. Yea, his pleasure shall inferre such profit, and his good will such gain, as if he reapt the beautifull apples of Tantalus, which are no sooner toucht, but they turne to ashes.

Beautie Gwydonius, no sooner flourisheth but it fadeth, and it is not fullie ripe before it begin to rot: it no sooner blossometh, but it withereth, and scarcely being toucht it staineth, like to the Guyacum leafe, that hath the one halfe parched, before the other halfe be perfect: to the bird Acanthis, which hatched white, yet turneth blacke at the first stroke: or like to the stone Astites, that chaungeth colour with the onelie breath of a man.

If then Gwydonius, beautie be so fading, so fickle, so momentarie, so mouing, so withering, so waning, so soone passed, and so soone parched: is this the Jewell, which you count more deare than life: and the Jemme which you thinke worthie to be purchased with the danger of death? No doubt Gwydonius, if you wonne the victory, you might vaunt of a great conquest, and if your long hope were repaied with a great hap, it should be much like to his, which thinking to embrace Iuno, caught nothing but a vanishing cloude.

You do well Madame (quoth Castania) to put an If, in it, because he that vaunteth of victorie before he hath wonne

the

fielde, may proue himselfe a fole: he that brags of gaines before the accountes be cast, may perhappes put his winnings in his eyes: and he that bloweth the Hort before the fall of the Buck, may verie well misse of his fees: so he that countes himselfe a spæder before he be a woer, sheweth himselfe a vaine person or a vaunting patch.

Might it not be I pray you Maister Gwydonius, that passing the bridge, scaping the dangerous seas, and happily arriuing at the desired Rocke, yet you might misse of your purpose? Yes forsoth: for many a man bendeth his bow, that neuer killeth his game, layeth the strap that neuer catcheth the fowle, pitcheth the Net that neuer getteth the fish, and long time are heauy woers that neuer proue happie spæders.

So perhaps Gwydonius, you might be crossed with a chip of the same mischance, and the gorgious Dame whom you adore for a Goddesse, might repaie your liking with loathing, your loue with hate, your good will with despite, and your fired fancie with small affection, either that shee liked you too little, or loued another too much. All these doubtes Gwydonius, are carefully to be cast, and wisedome it is to feare the worst, and finde the best: but you sir, like a lustie champion, thinke a Ladie wonne at the first looke, and the good will of women gained at the first glance, thinking the Gods themselues are to be accused of iniustice, if they be not aiders to your enterprise, insomuch that if in ventring ouer the perilous passage, you had by disaster Fortune fallen into the dangerous Seas, you doubted not but that Iupiter would haue sent a Dolphin, that Arion like, you might escape the fearefull surges: but Gwydonius be not so ventrous, least though you harpe verie long, you get not the like hap. These premisses considered, if my censure might stande for a sentence, I deeme it better to be counted a dastardly coward, than a desperate caitife, better to forsake your Goddesse, than your God, better to liue pinched with a fewe momentarie passions, than with

desperate death to destroy both soule and bodie: for there is no sore such, which in time may not be salued, no care such, which cannot be cured, no fire so great which may not be quenched, no loue, liking, fancie, or affection, which in time may not either be repressed, or redressed.

Valericus hearing this rough replie of Castania, supposed that although she leuelled at Gwydonius, yet she shot at him, and fearing the fort should be too much shaken with this fierce assault, he stifly defended the walles with this fresh alarum.

MAdame (quoth he) I see you will sit nigh the walles ere you be thrust out for a wrangler, and that you will speake against your owne conscience, but you will haue the conquest: for my owne part Madame, howsoeuer I seeme to like it, I will not saie I mislike it, but I am sorie you Madame Melytta should so blasphemously imblaze the armes of beautie, and so reckelesly raile against the sacred lawes of loue: take heed for crossing Cupid so crabbedly, for though he forgiue and forget, Venus is a woman, and will seeke reuenge.

Valericus (quoth shee) take no care what daunger I incurre for speaking the trueth, if I chaunce to bee harmed, it is mine owne mishappe, and for Venus reuenge I care for it the lesse, because I feare it not: if I speake against my selfe, you may see I am the fitter to be a Iudge, because I am not partiall, nor haue anie respect of persons.

These quips Madame (quoth Gwydonius) are nothing to the purpose, therfore in the behalfe of my selfe and beautie, thus I answere. That as there is nothing that so soone procureth a man to loath, as deformitie, so there is nothing which sooner procureth a man to loue than beautie: for the most precious stone is chosen by the most glistering hiew, the pureſt gold by the most perfect colour, the best fruit by the brauest blossomes, and the best conditions by the swee-

test countenance, so that where beautie raigneth, there vertue remaineth, and vnder a faire face resteth a faithfull heart. Sith then beautie and bountie cannot be parted, what man is he so brutish, whom the least of these wil not weake or bend?

And whereas you condemne me of vanitie in vaunting before the victorie, I saie, that if fortune had so fauoured me, that I had gained the presence of my Goddesse, I wold neuer haue doubted to haue obtained my desire: for if she had seene the desperate daunger which I aduentured, and the fearefull perils which I passed for her sake, she could not but of conscience, repaie my loue with vnfained loyaltie, and my good will with treble gaine. And in troth I thinke it vnpossible, that such heauenly beautie should be eclipsed with crueltie, and such perfect comelinesse be blemisht with curious coynesse.

Why Gwydonius (quoth she) doest thou call it crueltie, not to condescend to the request of euerie one that wooeth, or doest thou tearme it coynesse, not to yeeld to the assault of euerie flattering louer? Then in my iudgement, it were good for euerie woman to be both cruell and coie, that by crueltie shee might auoide the traine of trothlesse wowers, and by coinesse eschue the troupe of faithlesse sutors.

And so Madame (quoth Valericus) she should reape small comfort and lesse credit.

Mush Signor Valericus (quoth Gwydonius) it pleaseth her thus merilie to iest, whereas I know she doth account more of a curteous dame, than of a curious damsell, and that her Ladiship so detesteth the name of crueltie, that she would be loth to be thought to haue a mind deuoid of mercie. And in troth to leaue these particular instances, women in generall, or for the most part, are bountifull, curteous, sober, chaste, demure, not imbrued with vice, but indued with vertue: so that by how much womens bodies are weaker than mens, by so much their mindes are more strong and vertuous.

What Gwydonius, (quoth shee) doe you thinke to bee a free man in Wales, for offering a Leeke to Saint Dauie, or to bring Pan into a fooles Paradise by praysing hys Pipe.

Not so Madame (quoth hee) but I hope in extolling a souldiours life to haue Saint George to my friend, and in giuing verdit with Venus, to gaine her good will, and to reape the reward that Paris had for his censure.

Mary sir (quoth Castania) if you haue no better gettings, you may gaine long inough, and yet liue by the losse: for in obtaining one friend, you shall reape two foes, as Paris did, who was more plagued by Pallas and Iuno, than pleasured by flattering Venus.

And yet Madame (quoth he) his mishap shall not make me to beware: for if Venus would graunt me but one Ladie in the world, whom most entirely I loue, I would neither respect Pallas, Iuno, nor Diana her selfe, were she neuer so despitefull.

Yes but you would (quoth shee) if shee pinched you but with Acteons plague, to pester your head with as manie hornes as a Hart: It would cause you coniecture your new mistres were too much giuen to the game, or that you were come from Cornetto by descent.

Tush Madame (quoth he) doe you count Acteons hap such a great harme, the onely sight in seeing Diana naked, was a recompence for all his insuing sorrowes, and if my selfe might inioy my wish, and obtaine the heauenly dame that so heartily I desire, the plague of Acteon, nay, the griping griefes the ghostly spirites doe suffer, shoulde not counteruaile the ioy I should conceiue in inioying so peerelesse a iewell.

Trulie (quoth Thersandro) thou art woorthie Gwydonius, to be a chapman, that thou bidst so well for thy chaffer, and in my minde she is not in Alexandria, who for her beautie is so to be loued, or at the least would deeme thee not worthie to be liked. But leauing these amorous

discourses, let vs hie vs in hast to the Court, least in tarying Orlanio misse vs, and so we be shent. The companie obeying the minde of Thersandro, passed as spædily as might be to the pallace, where being ariued, they departed euery man to his owne lodging.

Castania had no sooner conueied her selfe closely into her chamber, but her mind was moued with a thousand sundry motions, and shee felt such a cruell conflict in her hapless heart, by the assault of diuers contrary passions, that howe stoutly so euer she defended the wals, shee found her force to weake to resist the rage of so reckless a tyrant. Nowe the prayers Valericus powred forth came to effect, nowe Venus meant to be reuenged for the cruelty she vsed to her valiant captain Valericus, who so valiantly had fought vnder the flagge of affection, and yet could by no meanes preuaile. For Castania hearing the sugered eloquence, which so sweetly flowed from the sappie wit of Gwydonius, framing in her fancie the forme of his face, & printing in her heart the perfection of his person, was so intangled in the snares of loue, as she could by no reason redresse her miserie, but will she, nill she, fell into these bitter complaints.

ALasse witlesse wretch (quoth she) that I am, what firy flames of fancie doe frie within me? What desire, what lust, what hope, what trust, what care, what dispaire, what feare, what furie? That to be pained with these perplexed passions, to me that neuer felt the force of them before, is no lesse dolour than death it self, be it neuer so direfull. O Gods, where are now become those loftie lookes I vsed to Valericus? Where is the disdainfull dealinges, the coy countenances, the curious congies, the causeless crueltie? Yea, the hard heart, which so rigorously reiected the loue of him, which so intirely liked mee? Coulde I, fond fole that I am, valiauntly withstand the assaultes of a worthie Gentleman, and shall I cowardly yeeld to an vnknowne stranger? Did I loath him, whose parentage was

little inferiour to mine, and shall I loue another of base and vile birth? Did I disdaine to looke at the lure, and shal I now stoope without stall, come without call, yea, and to such an emptie fist, O lawlesse Loue, O witlesse will, O fancie, fraught full of frenzie and furie. Alas if I shoulde bee so careless as to consent to this frantike toie, what wil they say, that praised me for my vertue? Will they not as fast dispraise me for my vanitie? Will not my father fret, my kinsfolkes crie out, my friendes be sorrie, my foes and especially Valericus, laugh me to scorne, and triumph of this my mishappe? Yea, will not all the world wonder to see me alate giuen to chastitie, and now shake hands with virginitie, to yeld my deerest iewell and chiefest treasure into the hands of a stragling stranger, who came to my fathers court without countenance or coine, wealth or worship, credit or calling: yea, who by his owne report is but a person of small parentage. Seek then Castania to allwage this flame, and to quench this fire, which as it commeth without cause, so it will consume without reason: For the greatest flow hath the soonest ebbe, the sorest tempest hath the most sodaine calme, the hottest loue hath his coldest end, and of the deepest desire oft times insueth the deadlest hate: so that shee which settles her affection with such speede as ye makes her choice without discretion, may cast her corne shee knowes not where, and reapes she wot not what, and for her hastie chosing, may perhaps get a heauy bargaine. Alas, I know this counsaile is good, but what then? Can I deny that which the destinies haue decreed? Is it in my power to peruert that which ỹ Planets haue placed? Can I resist that which is stirred vp by the starres? No, what nede I then make this exclamation, sith I am not the first nor shall not be the last, whom the frantike frenzie of flickering fancy, hath with more wrong & greater vantage pittiously oppressed. What though Gwydonius be not wealthie, yet he is wise, though hee be not of great parentage, yet hee is of comely personage, it is not his

coine

coine that hath conquered me, but his countenance, not his vading riches, but his renowmed vertues, and I far more esteeme a man than money. I, but the Duke my father is not so base minded, as to bestow me vpon so meane a gentleman, he neuer will consent that poore Gwydonius shold inioy that which hee hopeth some Peereless Prince shall possesse. What then? Shall I preferre my Fathers weale before mine owne will, his liking before mine own loue? no, no, I will choose for my selfe whatsoeuer my choice be. Why but perchance Gwydonius will no more esteeme thee than thou didst Valericus, and repay thee with as small fancie, as thou him with affection? Tush doubt it not Castania, thou art the dame which hee so deciphered in his dreame, thou art that Venus which hee saw in his vision, thou art that Goddesse, whose beautie hath so bewitched him, thou art that iewell to possesse, the which there is no hap so hard which he would not hazard, no danger so desperate which hee would not aduenture, no burthen so heauy which he would not beare, nor no perill so huge which hee would not passe. And shall not then Gwydonius be my seruant, sith I am his Saint, shal not I like him which loueth me, sith he is my ioy, shal I not inioy him? Yes, Gwydonius is mine, and shal be mine in despite of the fates & fortune.

Castania hauing thus pitifully powred out her plaints, would gladly haue giuen Gwydonius intelligence (with modestie if she might) of her good will towardes him, and God knowes how fain Gwydonius would haue discouered his feruẽt affectiõ, if too much feare had not astonished him, and too great bashfulnesse staied her. She therfore houering betweene feare & hope, perseuered so lõg in her pensiue passions & careful cogitations, that by couert concealing of her inward sorrow, the flame so furiously fried within her, that she was constrained to keep her bed. Whereupon Melyta coniecturing the cause of her care by the colour of her countenance, thought to sift out the occasion of her sorrow, that by this meanes she might apply a medicine to her malady,

and

and finding fit opportunitie, shee brake with her in this wise.

Faire Castania (quoth shee) since I haue by the Duke your father been assigned to you as a companion, I haue in such loouing wise both comforted and counsailed you, as I hope you haue iust cause to say, that I haue most carefullie tendered your estate, for perceiuing how willing you were to follow my direction, I counted your wealth my weale, your pleasure my profite, your happinesse my ioy, and your prosperitie my felicitie. Which friendly care if it were not to be considered, if I should shew you what great sorrow I sustaine by your heauinesse, you would iudge my wordes to proceed either of folly or flattery, but if your sore be such as it may be saued, if your care may bee cured, if your grief may be redressed, or your maladie mittigated by my meanes, commaund me good Castania, in what I may to pleasure thee, & thou shalt find me so charily to performe my charge, as my willing minde shall euidently bewray my well meaning. I see Castania, of late, such a strange metamorphosis in thy minde, as for pleasant conceites thou doest vse pensiue meditations, thy cheerfull countenance is chãged into lowring loks, thy merry deuises into mournfull dumps, and yet I cannot coniecture no cause of this sodain alteration. If want of riches should worke thy woe, why, thou swimst in wealth, if losse of friends, thou hast infinite of noble parentage, which loues thee most intirely. If thou meanest no longer to leade a single life, no doubt thy father will prouide thee of such a princely match, as shall content thee for his person, & countenance thee with his parentage. But if in all these supposes I haue mist the marke, and haue not toucht the case of thy calamitie, vnfold vnto me Castania, what the paine is that thus doth pinch thee, and assure thy selfe I will be so secret in thy affaires, as euer Lampana was to her Ladie Cleophila.

Castania hearing this friendly discourse of Melytta, thought for all this faire glose, the text might be too intricate,

tricate, and that these painted speeches would proue but rotten pillers, fearing therfore the fetch, and doubting the worst, if she bewray her mind, she framed her this answer.

MAdame (quoth she) the incomparable curtesie and vnfained friendship which since your first comming I haue found in you by experience, will neither suffer mee to suspect your Ladishippe of flatterie, nor my selfe willingly to be accused of ingratitude, for your diligence hath been so great, and my deserts so small, that if I might but liue to requite some part of your good will, it were the second felicitie I loke for in this life. But touching the pensiue passions which thus diuersly perplexed me, I answer, that as he which is wounded of the Bores tusk, if his force take aire is verie hardly healed, as hee which stroken with a Scorpion, if his wound take wind can neuer be cured: so Madame, many inward maladies carry this nature, that if they be once discouered, they are farre the more hardlie recouered, that it is better to conceale them with griefe, than reueale them in hope of releefe.

Not so Castania, your principle is not true, for if your passions proceeded of loue, which of all other inward sores requireth greatest secresie, yet vndoubtedly the more it is discouered, the sooner it is cured, for as the stone of Armenia being couered with Sand, burneth most extreamely, and no sooner taketh aire, but it coleth, so the firie flames of loue raked vp in silence, frie most furiously, but being by discourse disclosed, they soone conuert from flame to fume and smoke. Wherefore good Castania impart vnto mée the matter which doth import thée so néere, and I sweare vnto thée by the sacred rites of Cæres, which is so honoured in Alexandria, that if thou doest loue where thy friendes doe not like, and thy wish be contrary to their will, yet I will seeke all meanes possible to redresse thy sorrow.

Alasse good Madame, rather than you should thinke mée so incredulous or suspitious, as not to beleeue your oth, or

doubt of your secret dealing, I will without delay make you priuie to the cause of my paine, what perill so euer I incurre by reuealing it. So it is Melytta, that the perfection of Gwydonius, his exquisite qualities, and excellent vertues, haue fiercely assaulted the forte of my fancie, as I am perforce constrained to resigne my libertie captiue vnto his curtesie, & to make his person the prison of my heart. This luckelesse and vnlikely loue madame, is the cause of my care, and the sum of my sorrow, this frantike affection hath driuen my droping heart to shew forth these drousie looks, this is it which hath made me an enemie to my self, a foe to all good company, and to delight in nothing but sorrow and solitarinesse: yea, this is the sore, which if in time it be not salued, will preuent by death all other miseries.

And is this (quoth Melytta) the paine that so greatly perplexeth you? Is this the care that so cumbers your conscience? Is this the danger which driues you into such deep distresse? Do you thinke so superstitiously of Gwydonius, or so abiectly of your selfe, that you deeme this matter impossible to be brought to passe? no, no, doubt not Castania, I my selfe dare absolutely promise thee, that thy loue shall sort to such happie successe, as thou thy selfe doest seeke for.

And with that Melytta stayed by a sodaine sight she had of that Saint that Castania, so hartily serued, for Gwydonius was entering in at the chamber dore with a dish of delicates, which Orlanio hearing his daughter was so sick, had sent her. Melytta seeing that Cupid began to fauour the cause of his clients, in giuing them such fit opportunitie to discouer their cares, went her way, leauing Gwydonius the first man to play his part in this tragicall comedy, who seeing his goddesse thus surprised, with sicknesse, was so galled with griefe, so pinched with hellish passions, and so tortured with extreame torments, that his colour began to change, & he fetcht a deep sigh or two, which Castania hearing, she perceiued without touching his pulses, the cause of these his sodain passions, In fine, such melancholike mo-

tions

tions so amazed his mind, that he was almost mute in his message, yet at length incouraging himselfe, he presented it vnto her in this wise.

Madame (quoth hee) the Duke your Father hearing of your sodaine sickenesse, in token of his fatherly affection, amongst all his dainties, hath sent you this dish, which he thinks most meet for your diet, wishing your Ladiship to let no doubtfull motions distresse your minde, nor no carefull thoughtes cumber your conscience, for you shall lacke nothing if you reueale to him your want, which either your will or wish can desire. And trulie Madame, to manifest my willing duety (if the praiers of a poore Gentleman may be heard of the heauenly Gods) I wish that before you taste of this food it may turne to Nectar, whereby not onely your sickenesse should be salued, but your diuine beautie and vertue according to desert should be crowned with immortalitie.

Castania perceiuing with what feruent affection Gwydonius vttered those wordes, began to cheere vp her selfe, in hope that her good wil should not be repaied with ingratitude, taking therefore the present at his handes, and liking it neuer the worse for his sake that brought it, she returned him this replie.

Gwydonius (quoth she) as I haue cause most reuerently to accept of my fathers louing curtesie, and to repay his naturall affection with most dutifull obedience, so I haue cause to thanke thee for thy paines, and to thinke well of thee for thy wish, promising in recompence of thy good wil, if in any respect I may pleasure thee, to seeke and sue to my father for preferment.

Madame, I account the performance of my message no paine, but pleasure, and I thinke my self as much honored by this office, & thrice more happy than if I should in Ganimides place present ý cup to Iupiter. But Madame, sith that to stop the streame, is to make the floud flow more fiercelie, to represse the fire, is to make it flame more furiously,

and to restraine the force of loue, is to kindle a greater flame, least too long delaie should breede too great daunger, and by consealing my sorrow I should make the sore incurable, I thought good either presently to heare the curtuous sentence of my life, or the cruell domme of my death. So it is Madame, that too long gazing vppon the beames of your heauenlie beautie, and too narrowlie construing ouer your vertuous conditions, I remaine so caught in the snare of your bountie, and so thralled in the threede of your vertue, that the staie of my life hangeth in your hands, either to driue me downe to hellish miserie, or to hoist me vp to heauenly felicitie. For although I haue not heretofore by dutifull seruice made manifest the loyaltie of my loue, yet since I first framed in my fancie (as in a mirrour) the shape of your surpassing beautie, my heart hath bene crossed with such cruell Camizados for your sake, as if with the Target of hope, I had not withstood the furious force ofsuch raging furies, I had by dispaire bèn dashed against most dangerous rockes. Sith then Madame, the sight of your sweete face hath fast fettered my fancie in the linkes of loue, as without your meanes I can neither be redressed nor released: I humblie desire you neither to resist the motion of my well meaning, nor to reiect the deuotion of my good will, but to accept your poore Gwydonius as a faithfull seruant.

Castania hearing diligentlie the faithfull discourse of distressed Gwydonius, perceiuing by his sighs thepinching sorrow of his thoughtes, and seeing him so fast fettered in follie, on a sodaine to giue her the slip, had that shee desired, and now her louing lookes was turned to lowring glances, her delightfull curtesie, to disdainfull coinesse, and she thought to repaie the sweete meate wherewith before she fed him, with most sowre sauce, not that she misliked of his loue, for it was the onelie thing she desired, but to make him the more feruent in affection, vttering these or such like words to her selfe secretly.

And is not (Castania) the victorie most accounted of, where the conquest is most doubtfull? Is not the Castle which abideth the longest batterie, thought the richest bootie? Are not those pearles which are scarcely founde and hardly gotten, euer of greatest value, what so is gained by perill, is thought alwaies precious, hardly come by, warily kept. The maide that by long sute and much trauell is obtained, by how much the more she was hard in the winning, by so much the more shee will be sweete in the wearing, shee which in her virginitie is charie of her chastitie, in her marriage will bee as warie of her honestie, therefore I will qualifie the hot loue of Gwydonius with a cold potion, & with ỳ she made him this waspish answere.

Why Gwydonius, shall the old Prouerbe be verified in thee, that the Priest forgets himselfe that euer he was a clarke, that too much familiaritie breedes contempt. I see well if Appelles that cunning Painter suffer the greasie Souter to take a view of his curious worke, he will grow so malapert, as to meddle with his picture: if the proude Centaure Ixion be bidden to the feast of the Gods, no lesse than Iuno her selfe will suffice him for his choice.

Set a beggar on horse backe they saie, and he will neuer alight. Extoll one of base stocke to any degree of dignitie, and who so proude and haughtie? I speake this Gwydonius to thy reproofe: is thy stomake alate waxen so queasie, that no diet wil downe but my fathers owne dish? Wil no meaner mate suffice thee, vnlesse thou match with a Prince? Is there no Ladie will like thee, but my loue? Is there no courser Dame to couet, vnlesse thou court vnto me? Did my father promote thee to this thou art, from the state of a beggar, and wilt thou now presume to be my better? Haue my lookes bene so louing, my countenance so curteous, my glaunces so full of good will, as to promise so much as thou doest presume? No: but one onely countenaunce in a seruile minde is too much incouragement. Doest thou thinke Gwydonius, that I account so meanely

of my person, as to match with a man of thy pitch? Shall I so far cracke my credit, as to cumber my selfe with one of thy calling? Shall I so straine my state, as to stoope to thy lure? No, Where is thy coine to maintaine my countenaunce? Where is thy wealth to vpholde my worship? Where is thy patrimonie to counteruaile my personage? But put case I accepted of thy suite, doest thou thinke euer to gaine my fathers good wil? Doest thou thinke it is possible to compasse his consent? Doest thou hope euer to take him in such a vaine, as he will be willing to giue his verdite on thy side? No Gwydonius, but if he were priuie to this thy presumption, he would repaie thy follie with too much furie, he would vnplume thee of all his feathers, that like Æsops Crow thou mightest receiue the reward of thy rashnesse. If therefore thou loue thine owne welfare, keepe thy selfe within thy boundes, and striue not farther than thy sleeue will stretch, least in climing too high, thou catch the sorer fall.

Castania hauing thus sharply shaken vp my yong youth Gwydonius, thought she had giuen him a sufficient coling Card: but he no whit dismaied with this denial, like a lusty champion entered peece meale with her in this wise.

Madame (quoth hee) the poore shoomaker was not blamed for viewing Appelles picture, but because in finding fault he went beyond his shoe: the Centaure Ixion was not reproued for his familiaritie with Iuno as hee was a guest, but in that his suite tended to the sacking of her honestie: familiaritie neuer breeds contempt in a good mind, neither am I to be accused of that crime, for the most seruil slaue in Alexandria (I call the heuens as witnesses of my words) doth not with more louing dutie reuerence & honor your person & parentage, than doth your poore seruãt Gwydonius. Well Madame, though my nature and nurture be such in your sight, as they bewraie my bringing vp and birth to be so base, as if I meane to drawe my descent, (I must as you say) imblaze mine armes in the beggars coat,

yet

yet thus much I answere in respect of my parentes, and without arrogancie thus farre I stand on my pantuffles, that the credite I haue in your fathers Court, is not coequall with the calling I haue in mine owne Countrie, if I did not count it more greater credite and honour, in that I haue sometime enioyed a curteous countenance of your sweete selfe since my comming. But if I were the most famous Prince in the world, I so esteeme your diuine beautie and exquisite vertue, as I would thinke my selfe farre vnworthie to possesse such heauenly perfection: which if I could obtaine, the displeasure of your father could no whit discourage mee, his thundering threates could no whit amaze mée, no, death it selfe could neuer daunt my minde, were it neuer so despitefull. But who (saie you) can laie their loue where is no desert, and where want brédes a flat deniall?

Ah Castania, Nature by her secret motion hath indued all creatures with some perfect quallities, to supplie that want which brédes misliking. The Moule depriued of sight hath a wonderfull hearing: the Hare being verie fearefull is most swift: the fish hauing no eares, hath most cleare eies: so though want of dignitie disgrace me, though want of coine discountenance me, though lacke of wealth impaires my credit, yet Nature hath giuen me such a loyall and louing heart, as I hope in the perfection of that, she hath supplied the want of all the rest: so that Madame, though I want coine, I do not want constancie, though I haue no landes, yet I lacke not loyaltie, though I want wealth, yet I want not will to end my life to do you good, or spend my time to do you seruice.

GWydonius hauing thus pithelie replied, draue Castania into a great doubt, whether shee should presently consent to his demand, or still driue him off with delaies, whether shee should yeelde the fort at the first Clarrunish, or stand to the doubtfull euent of battaile: at length least she

should

shou'd digresse from the course of womankind, she thought best to deme that she most of all desired, and therefore then gaue him this answere.

GWydonius (quoth she) in what state you came to my fathers Court I knowe, what you are by descent I I know not, nor I care not, and if I did, it auaileth not, but this I saie, that it is hard taking of fowle, when the net is discried, and ill catching of fish, when the hooke is bare: impossible it is Gwydonius, to inferre beleefe, when no credit will be giuen, and to deceiue her that spieth thy fetch: when the string is broken, it is hard to hit the white, and when a mans credite is called in question, perswasions can litle preuaile. It is a religion amongst louers to sweare and forsweare, to promise mountaines, and performe moulhils, to be ripe without and rotten within, to carrie a rustie blade in a veluet scabberd, and a siluer bell with a leaden clapper. Therfore Gwydonius, I had rather mistrust too soone, than mislike too late, I had rather feare my choice than rue my chance, I had rather stoppe at the brim, than at the bottome: for the Signet being set, it is too late to breake the bargain, & fancie being once fixt, it is too late to reclaime affectiō. For the loue of a woman is like the Dyle of Flint, which being once concealed will neuer be dissolued: like the Diamond, which being once rubbed with the gumme of a Pine tree, will neuer be broken: so if I fancie anie, sith I meane not to fleete, it shall be such a one, as I need not repent me.

And whereas you saie Gwydonius, that in despight of Fortune, Nature hath giuen you a louing heart, I my self surely did neuer deeme any lesse, but thought you of the crue of those louers that loue too much, hauing as manie Ladies as they haue wits, and that is not a few, who count that euerie face must haue a new fancie, and if they see a thousand, they must be all viewed with a sigh, which considered Gwydonius, I mean not to like nor to loue neither you nor anie other.

And

AND shall then Madame (quoth he) my merite be repaied with no meede? Shall my good will be requited with no gaine? shall I haue in lieu of my life no liking? will you so swarue from iustice, as not to giue euerie one according to his desert? at the least recompence: not desire with despight, and heartie loue, with loathing hate, for as the Poet saith: quis enim succenset amanti.

Well Gwydonius, as I will not be thy priuie friend, so I will not be thine open foe, and as I cannot be so curteous as to requite thee for thy pains, so I will not be so cruell as to despight thee for thy presumption, and whereas thou crauest gaines for thy good will, I am content to remaine thy vnwilling debter.

Yet Madame (quoth he) where the debt is confest, there remaineth some hope of recouerie, for though the creditor be neuer so vnwilling to paie the debt being due, he shall by constraint of law and his owne confession, (maugre his face) be forced to make restitution.

Truth Gwydonius, (quoth she) if he commence his action in a right case, and the plea he puts in, proue not imperfect. But yet take this by the way, it is hard for that plaintife to recouer his costes, where the defendant being Judge, sets downe the sentence.

Gwydonius feeling himselfe pincht to the quicke with this prettie quip, made no further replie, but least his long tarrying might breed suspition, wishing his mistresse welfare, toke his leaue verie solemnely and sorrowfully, of Castania, who seeing him gone and her selfe alone, began thus to muse and meditate vppon the sharpe answeres she had giuen her best beloued Gwydonius.

WHy Castania, what frantike follie hath made thee thus far to forget thy selfe? Is the bird inticed to the strap by the shewe of the nets, is the Fox allured to the train by the view of the trap? will the Mouse march vnder

that Ensigne, where the Catte proclaimeth her selfe Captaine? will the sillie Doue laie her Egges in the Fawlchons neast? or is it the meanes to haue him to thy friend, whom with bitter blowes thou doest rebuke? is there no other cail for curtesie but crueltie? doest thou finde no fitter meanes to obtaine a reasonable request but by a rigorous repulse? or is it the nature of women to defie that outwardly which they most desire inwardly, to loath that in their mouth, which they loue in their minde, to reiect that with their hand, which they most willingly would receiue in their heart? Doest thou thinke Castania, to draive Gwydonius to thy desire, by detesting him? Dost thou think to allure him to thy loue, by loathing him? Doest thou suppose to win him to thy will by these waspish answeres? No: and what, doest thou know what perill will ensue of this repulse, what daunger will follow of this deniall? Is it like he will put it vp patiently? No sure, either looke to haue his extreame loue turned to extreame hate, or that he will persist no longer in the pursute of his purpose. Oh would to God Gwydonius, thou wert againe to begin thy demaund, and I to frame mine answere: then would I salue thy sores with sweete siropes, not with cutting corasiues: then would I mittigate thy maladie with easie medicines, not with pinching plaisters: then would I comfort thée with consent, not daunt thée with denials. But alas, had I wist now comes too late, and therefore Castania, if thou hast made a faulte, seeke to make amendes, and recompence this his iniurie with most friendly curtesie.

And with that came Melytta, who comforting Castania, passed away the rest of the day in parle.

But Gwydonius, who all this while had a flea in his eare, was driuen into a quandarie with the tanting quips of his mistresse, fearing that although his accountes were great, his gaines should be litle, and though he made a verie long haruest, yet he should reape but a verie smal crop,

thinking

thinking that vnder such sowre speeches, a sugred minde coulde not bee contained: yet at last entering into deeper consideration with himselfe, hee fell into these tearmes.

But by the sweete (quoth hee) how should we knowe the sower: but by the blacke how should wee knowe the white: hee neuer greatly accounteth of prosperitie which hath not bene before pinched with aduersitie: which perchaunce Castania meanes to make me trie by experience, thinking to fede me first with bitter broathes, that hereafter daintie fare may more delight me: to daunt me with the raging stormes of denial, that the calme of her consent may more content me: to make me taste the bitter pilles of annoy, that hereafter I may enioy the greater ioy: for the chilling colde of winter makes the sprowting spring time seeme farre more pleasant, the parching heate of sommer, makes the cole shade more delightfull, and the frowning lookes of Castania, will make her smiling countenance seeme more cheerfull. Then cease not Gwydonius, to pursue thy suite with endlesse paine, either to enioy her curtesie, or taste of her crueltie, to thy great happinesse or extreame heauinesse.

GWydonius thus like a valiant champion, neuer amazed with any chip of misfortune, neuer feared to giue the assault for all the first repulse, but onely sought opportunitie how he might in close combat once againe incounter with Castania, vowing either to returne with some signe of victorie, or else to put himme and life in hazard. But fortune meaning pleasantly to sport with this yong nouice, would neuer minister such fit occasiõ, that he might haue solitarie accesse to his goddes, for Castania of pretended purpose so warily auoided his companie, and with such disdainfull lookes so reiected his dutie, as Gwydonius was constrained to seeke his course by a new compasse, deliuering vnto one of her mayds a friendly letter, to this effect.

Disdained Gwydonius to his desired Castania, health.

WHo so tasteth (Madame Castania) of the Riuer Licos in India, feeleth such a continuall flame to frie and fret his intrailes, as it is more torture than to bee tormented with the hellish furies, and this griefe can neuer be redressed, but with drinking the bloud of his deerest friend. And as hee that is venomed by the Phalanga, feeleth such painfull passions, as he runneth mad, and is onely cured by meanes of most harmonious Musicke: so Madame, the furious heate of fancie, doth so scorch and scale my hapless heart, and doth perplexe me with such hellish pangues, as death it selfe were thrice more desired, than thus to driue my dayes in dolour. And I haue so greedily swallowed vp the sugred poison of your diuine beautie, as through the extremitie of pinching griefe, which so direfully distresseth me, I rest as one distract from his senses, not possible to obtaine a cure for this my calamitie, vnlesse with the dewe of mutuall affection you mittigate my maladie, or with the pleasant harmonie of your Musicall consent, you appease my miserie.

Sith then Madam, my care proceedeth from your beautie, let my sore be cured by your bountie, sith the perfection of your person hath wrought my bane, let the effect of your courtesie procure my blisse, and reiect him not so rigorously which respecteth you so reuerently: loath him not so hatefully, which loueth you so heartily: nor repay not his dutifull amitie, with such deadly enmitie. The pike fatally prosecuteth the fish Maugra, as his mortal foe, and yet seeing him snared on the fishers hooke, he spedily shreddeth the line in sunder, to deliuer him: the Snake most deadly detesteth the field-mouse, and yet she heapeth vp in her whole store of prouision to preuent her enemies penurie: and shall then Madame, your crueltie so farre exceede

these

these senceleſſe creatures? ſhall your rigour be ſo voyd of reaſon, as to requite your friend with paine? when they repaie their foes with pleaſure, to driue your friendes into diſtreſſe, when they redeeme their foes from danger, no madame, I hope you will not counteruaile my conſtancie with ſuch diſcurteſie, nor ſo reckleſly regard your poore Gwydonius, whoſe loue and loyaltie is ſo great, that as the ſtones which are found in the riuer Lynceſtis, the lowder the winde bloweth, and the deeper they are drencht in the water, the more they burne and blaze: ſo the more you ſeek to coole my fancie with diſdaine, the more my affection is kindled with deſire: the more you loath, the more I like: the greater diſpaire you driue me into by denials, the greater hope, (incouraged by conſtancie) I haue to obtaine my requeſt: in which feruent affection, I meane to remayne without chaunge, crauing in lieue of this my loyaltie, that you will ſpædily ſend the meſſenger of preſent conſolation, to him which pineth away, and is yours onely and euer.

Still in hope, Gwydonius.

CAſtania hauing receiued this letter from her aſſured friend Gwydonius, although ſhe perceiued by the contents that his loue was not counterfait, but conſtant: not light, but loyall: not floting but faithfull: and that ſhee ſhould not finde him immutable in proſperitie, which was ſo permanent in aduerſitie. Yet (whether it were for coyneſſe in conſent, or charineſſe of choyſe I knowe not) ſhee once againe thought to ſound him more deeper, to keep out ſtill the flagge of defiance, and to ſpend one Mollœ of ſhot in the face of her enemie, to ſee if a hot ſkirmiſh would make him flie the field. And if like a valiant ſouldier hee did manfully march on, and not refuſe the brunt of the battaile, ſhee would then reſigne the fort of her frædome into his hands, and yéeld vp the bulwarke of her breaſt, which

so long he had battered, that triumphantly he might set vp Trophees in signe of most victorious conquest. To put therefore the matter in question, shee returned him this answere.

Castania to Gwydonius, which hopeth in vaine, health.

MAster Gwydonius, your letter being more hastely receiued then heartily read, I perceiue by the contents that you are still perplexed with your pen-sicke passions, and that your disease is incurable, for if your paines may be appeased, or your maladie mittigated by no medicine, but by my means, you are like either to paie your due vnto death, or still to linger in distresse. My cunning is too small to enterprise the composition of any secret simples, and my calling too great to become a Phisition to such a paltering patient, so that I neither can nor will cure another mans harme by mine own mishap. To loue him whom I cannot like, were but to wrest against mine owne will, to flatter him whom I meane not to fancie, is but a mere tricke of extreme follie. What the cause is Gwydonius, that thy good will reapes so smal gaine, and that so rigorously I repaie thy loue with hate, I know not, vnlesse the constellation of the Starres by some secrete influence haue so appointed it in the calculation of our natiuitie. But this I am sure, that as no Serpent can abide the smell of a Harts horne, as the Panther eschweth the companie of the Dwnce, as the Vulture is mortal enemie to the Eele, and as it is impossible to hatch vp a Swan in an Eagles neast, to temper Oyle and Pitch together in one vessell, to mire the bloud of a Lyon and a Woolfe in one bowle, and to procure amitie betweene the Fawlcon called Tilo, and the Fore, so hard is it to procure me by ruthfull request to be thy friend, which am by instinct of nature thy protested foe, and as hard to winne mée to thy wife, who so little

likes

likes of thy loue, that the verie remembrance of thy person makes me fall into most hatefull passions. Cease then Gwydonius, to condemne me of crueltie, and leaue off at last to appeale to my curtesy, for thou shalt alwaies be sure to feele the one, and neuer to finde the other. Yet least thou shouldest accuse me of ingratitude, though I cãnot inwardly mittigate thy miserie, yet I will outwardly teach thee to apply such plaisters (as if the experience of them proue true) shall greatly appeale thy paine. Plinie Gwydonius reporteth, that he which drinketh of the riuer Auerna, coleth and mortifieth his affectiõs, but if the water be tought by any meanes before it be drunke, the vertue thereof is of no value. He that weareth the feathers of the bird Ezalon about him, shall euer be fortunate in his loue, but if they be not puld when the Sunne is eclipsed, they are of no force: and to conclude, there is nothing that soner driueth away amorous conceites, then to rub the temples of thy head with the sweat of an Asse, which if you can performe it, as no doubt you may put it in practise, I hope you shalbe redressed from your intollerable griefe, and I released from such an importunate sute.

Forced by the destinies still to
denie thee, Castania.

Gwydonius hauing viewed and reuiewed ouer this letter, seeing the rigorous resolution of his mistresse, could by no meanes be remoued, and that a most seuere sentence was pronounced against him by a most iniurious Iudge, was driuen into a doubt whether he should still wõ plaints sue for pittie, or else blaspheamously exclaime against her brutish crueltie, whether he shold bewray his parents and parentage to the Duke and her, or still stand to the doubtfull chance of fortune, to pursue his purpose stil wõ plaints: her hellish crueltie perswaded him, to blaspheme against her; the sincerities of his loue, would not let him to bewray

his

his birth : diuers daungers might insue : to stand to the chance of Fortune, was still to hazard without hope: combred thus with diuers cogitations, at last he determined to breake vp the batterie, and to lay to an inuincible hold, but to returne with as much spéede as might be to his father Clerophontes Court, there by absence to mittigate ỹ maladie which so grieuously molested him: yet he thought before his departure to giue her a friendly farewell, that might both confirme his constancie, and condemne her crueltie, which he framed to this effect.

Gwydonius to Castania, prosperous succesſe in all her affaires.

I Meane not, most mercilesse mistresse, any longer to sue for mercie, nor with pittifull plaints to trouble your patience, sith to stirre that which the Starres hath staied, is to striue against the streame, and to force that which the fates haue framed, is to couet to be counted a foole, but as one whome fortune meanes to make a myrrour of misery, and ouer whom Venus her selfe meanes to vaunt as of a most hapleſſe vassall, I sorrowfully send you this fainting farewell, as a faithfull token of my feruent affection, foreséeing neither my persõ can please, nor my liuing like you, nor my base calling content you, nor I my selfe reape anie guerdon for my good will, to auoide the remembraunce of these passions, which renue my paines, and to asswage the rigour of my raging loue, I purpose as spéedily as winde and weather will permit me, to abandon the place of your abode, not incensed by furie, as one in despight, but inforced by the rage of fancie to depriue my selfe in all delight, either to consume in solitary cares without compassion, or by absence to mittigate some part of my martyrdome: for to hope still, I sée is but to heape wo vpon wretchednesse, and care vpon calamity. Yet madame thus much I say, that Dido Quéene of Carthage loued Aeneas, a banished exile,

and

and a stragling stranger. Enphinia daughter to the king of Corinth, and heire apparant to his crowne, who for her feature was famous throughout all the East countries, vouchsafed to applie a soueraigne plaister to the furious passion of Achariſto, her fathers bondman. The dutcheſſe of Malphey chose for her husband her seruant Vlrico: and Venus, who for her surpassing beautie, was canonized for a Goddeſſe, disdained not the loue of limping Vulcan. They madame, respected the man, & not their money, their wils, and not their wealth, their loue, not their liuings: their cõstancie, not their coine: their person, not their parentage: & the inward vertue, not the outward value. But you are so addicted to the opinion of Danae, that vnleſſe Iupiter him selfe be shrouded in your lap, vnder the shape of a shower of gold, he shall haue the repulſe, for all his deitie: seeing then it is not in my powre power, neither to performe or practiſe it, I ceaſe off to seeke for impoſſibilities: promising in what coaſt or Country so euer I shall remaine, to haue my heart wholly dedicated to your diuine beautie and vertue, both by dutie and seruice, and so commending my health to the Gods, I bid you farewell.

Yours while he is Gwydonius,
sans eſpoier.

Caſtania hauing receiued this letter from Gwydonius, perceiuing the constant minde of the young Gentleman, that theſe his protestations were not vanitie, but veritie: not trifling, but troth: no signes of fleeting fancie, but of a firme affection: standing a while in a dumpe, at laſt he fel into this diſcourſe.

I now (quoth shee) both see and trie by experience, that there is no fiſh so fickle, but will come to the bayt: no Doe so wild, but will stand at the gaze: no Hawke so haggard, but will stoope at the lure: no Meſſe so ramage, but wil be reclaimed to the Lunes: no fruite so fine, but the Caterpiller

pillet wil consume it: no Adament so hard but will yeeld to the File, no mettle so strong, but will bend to the stampe, no mayd so free, but loue will bring her to bondage and thraldome. And doe I call it bondage, fond fole, to be bound vnto beautie, is it slauerie to be subiect vnto vertue? is it thraldome to liue in league with him who will like me in my youth, and loue me in my age, in whom I shall find nothing but pleasure and contentation: who will be the haue of my happines, wherein I may rest: & the port of my prosperitie, wherein I may be safe harboured from the tempestes of froward fortune, and shroud me from the bitter blastes of bale: Shall I repent me sith my bargain is good, or complaine of the losse of libertie, sith I haue a chaunge for farre more worthie chaffer? Shall I grudge when the Gods are agreed, or deferre it, when the destinies driue it: or frowne at it, sith fortune frames it? No, Gwydonius, is my Saint, and him will I serue, hee is my ioy, and him will I inioy. He hath layd the siege, and he shall sacke the Citie, he hath abode the batterie, and he shal haue the bulwarke of my breast: he hath fought the combat, and he shal be victor in the conquest. For I cannot be so vnnaturall, to reward his loue with loathing: so without reason, to defraud him of his right: so diuelish for his deepe desire, to giue him a dolefull dish of dispaire. No, no, I haue setled with my selfe, that if euer I marry, Gwydonius shalbe the man I will match with. And therefore as I haue driuen him with delayes, and fed him with folly, so nowe I will send him a setled answere of my good will and fauour, as I haue giuen him cutting corasiues, so I will send him confects of comfort. As I haue beene fearefull to shew my liking for the better tryall, so now I will be bold to shewe my loue in token of a better trust, and with that she wrote him a Letter to this effect.

Castania

Castania to Gwydonius, wishing him such happie successe, as either fortune or the fates can allow him.

PLato Gwydonius, being demanded why hée would neuer condescend to requests of his most déerest friendes, without great entreatie and long suite, answered, ỳ things lightly granted (though neuer so costly) are smally accounted of, which saying Gwydonius, I take as a sufficient excuse for my folly, for my straightnesse in wordes was no strangenesse in minde, my bitter spéeches were written with my hand, not wrought with my heart, my deniall was onely for the better triall, and those rigorous repulses were either to rip vp thy fained fancie, or feruent affection, for if thou hadst retired at the first foyle, I woulde haue thought thy fancie but a flash, readie to be quenched with the least misling deaw of misfortune. But since thou hast kept thy course so rightly by thy compasse, amidst most daungerous rockes, and hast stoode to thy tackling agaynst all the blustering blastes of Fortune. Assure thy selfe in liew of this thy loue, thou hast not héeretofore found mée so disdainfull, as héereafter thou shalt finde me dutifull, neither did I euer reiect thée so churlishly, as I will accept thée curteously, being readie to restore the iniury I haue offered thée, with any curtesie that thou mayest either honestly require, or I iustly afford. But alasse Gwydonius, what curtesie shall I euer be able to shew thée, that may counteruaile thy kindnesse: Yow entirely shall I loue thée to requite thy loyaltie: What dutie can be a due recompence to this thy good will: yea, if by any meanes I can quit this thy loue, I neuer doubt to be déemed ingratefull while I liue. Thy worthie constancie (Gwydonius) hath won the castle which many haue besieged, and thou hast obteined that which diuerse haue sought to gaine: yet it is not the shape of thy beautie, but the hope of thy loy-

altie, which entiseth me, not thy faire face, but thy faithful heart: not thy comely countenance, but thy modest curtesie, not thy wordes, but thy vertues: not thy wealth, but thy wit: for she that builds her fancy vpon such fading subiects, tieth her loue to the incōstant wheele of fortune. And what though the duke my father be incensed against me, for making (in his mind) so careless a choice? What care I for his friendship, so I haue thy fauour, let him fret, let my friends frowne, let liuings be lost, hap what hap will, no missing showers of mischance, no boysterous blasts of aduersitie, no terrible tempest of disaster fortune, shall make my constant minde in any respect to moue: no tormentes, no trauaile, no care, no calamitie, no penurie, no pouertie, no, onely the losse of life, shal diminish my loue, in liew whereof remaine thou but constant, and in pledge of my protested good wil, haue heere my heart and hand, to be thine in dust and ashes.

Thine, though the Gods say no:
Castania.

THis Letter being most luckely deliuered into the handes of Gwydonius, I leaue you to iudge Gentlemen into what a quandarie this yong youth was brought, to see such a sodaine change, and so happie a chaunce, as to haue his hellish bale requited with heauenly blisse, his despightfull annoy, with delightfull ioy: his heauinesse with happinesse, and doubtfull despaire turned to assured hope: to see Fortune which of late defied him as a foe, nowe to imbrace him as a friend, and to will that hee did wish: to see his mistresse cruelty turned to curtesie, her disdaine to desire, her bitter pilles to sugered potions, her stormie repulses to calme consent, and her contemptuous protestations, to most constant promises. For if the carefull captiue, who by the doome of the Iudge expecteth each houre to die, reioyceth when he heareth his pardon pronoūced, no doubt

Gwydonius ioy could be no lesse, sith denial was his death, and consent the conserue to heale his woundes: the greater care, the greater ioy, the more paine, the greater pleasure, the more hellish miserie, the more heauenlie felicitie. Yea, Gwydonius was driuen into such an extasie for ioy, that he was in doubt, whether this letter was preferred to him in deede, or presented to him in a vision, whether hee were wrapt into a traunce, or rauished with some drowsie slumber: but at last perceiuing it to be no fained fantasie, such a deep desire inforced his affection, as he thought euerie moment a moneth, euerie houre a yeare, euerie day a thousand, vntill he might freely enioy the presence & sight of his loue and Ladie Castania. Fortune meaning to aduance him to the toppe of her inconstant wheele, brought it so to passe, that before the worke was ended, he spied Castania walking alone in the garden: which sodain sight so reuiued his sences, that without any dread or doubt, he manfully marcht on towards her, and was as hastely and heartely incountred by Castania: who embracing Gwydonius in her armes, welcommed him with this salutation.

AS the Whale (Gwydonius) maketh allwayes signe of great ioy at the sight of the fish called Talpa Marina, as the Hinde greatly delighteth to see the Leopard, as the Lyon fawneth at the view of the Unicorne, & as he which drinketh of the Fountaine Hipenis in Scithia, feeleth his mind so drowned in delight, that no griefe though neuer so great, is able to asswage it: so Gwydonius I conceiue such surpassing pleasure in thy presence, and such heauenly felicitie in the sight of thy perfection, that no miserie though neuer so monstrous, is able to amaze me, no dolour though neuer so direfull, is able to daunt me, nor no mishappe though neuer so perillous, is able to make me sinke in sorrow, as long as I enioy thy presence, which I count a soueraine preseruatiue against all carefull calamities. That

as he which tasteth of the hearb Hyacinthus is neuer combred with care, and as he that weareth the stone Agathes about him, is surely defenced against all ensuing sorrows, so enioying the sight of thy seemely selfe, and feeding mine eyes with the forme of thy feature, I thinke my selfe sufficiently shrowded against all the tempestuous showers of sinister fortune. And to proue these my promises to be no fained vanities but faithfull veritie, I commit my selfe, my staie, and state into thy handes, to dispose of me at thy pleasure, wishing rather to liue with thée in most distressed penurie, than to linger héere in most fortunate prosperitie.

Gwydonius listening attentiuely to this sugred harmonie, was so rauished with the sight of her sweet face, and so rapt into a traunce with the contemplation of her beautie, that as the Lyon tasting of the gumme Arabicke becommeth senseleſſe, as the Bull by browsing on the barke of a Iuniper trée falleth a sléepe, as the Camill standeth astonished at ỳ sight of a Rat: so Gwydonius séeing in his armes the Saint whome in heart he did honour, and imbracing the Goddesse whom with most déep deuotion he did adore, was so amazed, that he was not able to vtter one word, as witnesse of his happinesse, vntill at last gathering his wits together, he began thus to replie.

CAstania (quoth he) it is an axiome in Philosophie, that the colour ioyned hard to the sight, hindreth the sence, the flower put into the nosethrill, stoppeth the smelling: the Wine vessell being full, lettes passe no Wine, though neuer so well vented: the waterpot being filled to ỳ brim, yéeldes forth no licour, though hauing a thousand holes: so where the minde is surcharged with ouermuch ioy, or too much pleasure, there the tongue is both tyed, and the sences so restrained, that the heart is neither able to conceiue the ioy, nor the tongue able to expresse the pleasure.

which Castania I now speake by proofe, and know by experience, for I am so drowned in delight by enioying that princely Iemme, which I esteeme the rarest and richest Iewell, not onely in Alexandria, but in all the world, and so puffed vp in pleasure by thy diuine presence. Yea, thy faithfull and vnfained affection, the promise of thy constancie, and the hope of thy loyaltie, the report of thy chastitie, and the renowme of thy modestie, the force of thy beautie, and the fame of thy vertue. But aboue all thy prodigall bountie, in bestowing these heauenly perfections on thy poore Gwydonius, being by person and parentage most vnworthie to possesse them, so surchargeth my fillie heart with excessiue ioy, that my tongue not being able in part to expresse the extreame pleasure of my minde, I am with Philistion the Comicall Poet, constrained by silence to vnfolde that affection, which in wordes the filed phrase of Demosthenes, were not able to decipher. But this assure thy selfe Castania, that if Iuno would aduaunce me to bee Monarch of the worlde, if Pallas would preferre me to excede hautie Hercules in valour, if Venus would present me with some princely peece of heauenly perfection, yet would I not so gladly receiue their proffers, as I do gratefully accept the promise of thy loue and loyaltie. No, I account the treasure of Croesus but trashe, in respect of the guerdon of thy good will: I account the fortune of Cæsar but follie, respecting the fruites of thy fauour: I esteeme the dignities of Priamus as dregges, in respect of thy diuine perfection. Yea, Castania, I am so snared with thy beautie, and so intangled in the trappe of thy bountie, as I shall neuer leaue to loue thee, nor euer begin to like anie other.

IT is easie Gwydonius (quoth Castania) to purchase credite, where the partie is alreadie perswaded, and to inferre beleefe, where euerie word is counted an Oracle. Therefore omitting these friuolous protestations, thus much I

saie

say touching the purpose. Cecillius Metellus was wont to say, that as it was necessarie that old men should be graue in counsaile, so it was expedient yong men should be secret in loue, and therfore when the contract was made between Fuluius and his daughter, he sealed vp their lips with his signet, meaning that to violate the secret conference of louers, was to commit a seconde sacriledge. I speake this Gwydonius, as one carefull of thy staie and my state: for if Orlanio my father should but once heare of our loue, or suspect our liking, it would breed thy mishap and my miserie: yea, no doubt he would speedelie preuent our pretence, which would be thy care and my calamitie. Dispose our affaires at thy pleasure, but discouer not our purpose, if thou hast wonne the Castle, vaunt not of the conquest: if thou hast made a good market, bragge not of thy gaines: least by boasting of thy bootie, thou lose thy praie, & be thought a prattler. And Gwydonius, aboue all men beware of Valericus, least vnder the shape of a friend, he proue in time thy mortall foe, least his fained amitie proue faithlesse enmitie: that in trusting too much without triall, thou finde not treason: and then though thou repent, yet had I wist commeth too late, and so thou wish thou hadst neuer loued, and I neuer liked.

TUch Castania, (quoth Gwydonius) he that is afraide to venter on the Bucke, because he is tapisht in the briers, shall neuer haue hunters happe, and hee that puttes his doubt in loue for euerie chaunce, shall neuer haue louers lucke. Cannot the Catte catche Mice, without shee haue a bell hanging at her eare? Cannot the Hobbie seaze on his praie, but he must checke? Cannot the Spaniell retriue the Partridge, but he must quest? And cannot we deale so warilie but all the world must wonder at it? Yes, it is a subtile bird that breedes among the aerie of Hawes, and a shifting sheepe that lambes in the Foresdenne, and he shall loke narrowly that spies me halting.

Let

Let Orlanio not onely weigh our worke, but our words, and let Valericus both deeme our deedes and diuine our thoughts, and yet I hope we will deale so secretlie in our affaires, as neither the one shall haue cause to suspect our familiaritie, nor the other to detect our affection. And therfore Castania, least (if we be spied) the time and place giue occasion of mistrust, I will leaue you as I found you, and so farewell.

WEll, these two louers placed thus by fortune in the pallace of earthly prosperity, floated so securely in the streames of blisse, as they thought no chippes of mischance might change their present happinesse to future heauinesse, as long as their priuie contract was kept so secret to themselues. But as they which cannot see fire in the straw are stone blinde: so he that cannot see the flame of fancie is a fole. It is hard to couer smoake, but more hard to conceale loue, which these two louers in tract of time tried true. Who as closely as they kept their cloake, yet it was most easie to espie the lining: for fancie secretly restrained, is like the sparke couered with ashes, which at length bursteth into a great flame. For there passed betweene Gwydonius such amorous glaunces, such louing lokes, such curteous congies, such countenances, and such friendly familiaritie, such often meetings, such open greetings, such sighes, such sobbes, and such strange passions, as not onely Valericus, but all the Court (though they pore soules thought to daunce in a Net and not be seene) perceiued how entirely they loued and liked each other. Which as it did not displease many which loued Gwydonius as their friend, so it greatly despighted Valericus which was his foe, to see one of smal countenance preferred before one of his calling, that Gwydonius should win the bulwarke which he so long had battered: that he pitching the field, another should obtaine the conquest: that he laying the siege, another should vaunt of the victorie: that while hee

beate the bush, another should catch the birdes: and that the meede of his merite, should be giuen to one of small desert. Being cumbered with these cholericke cogitations, and perplexed with these despightfull passions, inflamed with wrathfull furie, he fell into these tearmes.

O Gods (quoth he) what curtesie is there to be found in such Kites of Croesus kinde? Or what constancie is there to bee hoped for in such daintie disdaining Dames? Whose wauering willes and stailesse wittes both waxe and wane with the Moone, whose lunatike minds change with euerie sodaine motion: yea, whose lightnesse and leaudnesse is such, as they delight with the Rauen to feede on the most loathsome flesh, with the shée Woolfe to chose the foulest make, with Æsops Cocke to prefer the Barly Corne before a most precious Pearle, and with Glaucus to make a chaunge of his golden armour for brasen Harnesse.

Did not Euphinia forsake most famous Princes, and embrace a most infamous bondslaue? Did not Sirithia the Princesse of Denmarke reiect a poore peasant? Yea, did not Venus her selfe with the Beetle, disdaine all day to light on the most fragrant flowers, and at night vouchsafeth to lodge in a filthie cowsheard: I meane, did shée not refuse the renowmed Gods, and chose a most deformed Smith.

Why, but Valericus, is it fancie that forceth them to follie? Doth loue lead them? Do the destinies driue them? Doth beautie allure them? Is it their countenance that constraineth them? No, they are clownes: Is it their person or parentage that perswadeth them? No, they are peasants. But like craftie Calipsos, they thinke by these vnequall matches to rule the roast after their owne diet, to be soueraigne mistresse of their owne mindes, with Venus to let Vulcan possesse the trœ, and Mars enioy the fruit, to haue their husbands feed the sheep, and some other reape

the

the fleece: vnder the shadow of his head, do defende themselues from such heate as would otherwise greatly scorch their credite, to make him follow the bent of their bow, although he set the Cuckoldes ende vpward. It is a simple cloake that cannot couer one from a shower of raine, and a sillie husband that is not able to father that another doth beget. But to see how these gallant girles if they like not the partie, what shewe of shamefastnesse they will make, how they wil vale their face with the visour of virginitie, how they will cloake themselues with the colour of continencie, how charie they will be of their chastitie: whereas if they fancie, who so lose of their lips, and free of their flesh as they? But Valericus, why doest thou thus reckleslie raile and rage against womankinde. It is not Castania that thus crosseth thee with care, but Gwydonius that breedeth thy griefe. It is not she that inferreth thy sore, but he that procureth thy sickenesse. She is not the meanes of thy maledie, but he the hinderer of thy medicine. She is not the worker of thy woe, but he is the sower of thy sorrow. And shall he be puffed vp with prosperitie, and I pressed downe with miserie? Shall he swim in wealth, & I sincke in want? Shall he bathe in blisse, & I waile in woe? Shall he be pampered vp with pleasure, and I pine away with penurie? No, I will either spoile him, or spill my selfe, in despite of the fates and fortune.

WHile thus Valericus sought opportunitie to reuenge his wrath vpon guiltlesse Gwydonius, Fortune minding to bewray her immortalitie, brought it so to passe, that whereas Orlanio was accustomed to paie a yeerely tribute to the Duke of Metelyne, which surmounted to the summe of thirtie thousand Duckets, either wilfully or wittingly he with-held this debt, which Clerophontes claimed as his due, insomuch that beeing demanded by embassage for the payment of this tribute, he flatly answered, that he would not from henceforth disburse one diner, and hee was

sorrie that in paying it heretofore he proued himselfe such a foole. Whereupon Clerophontes being fraught with raging furie, was so incensed against Orlanio, that taking counsell of his nobilitie, he determined with as much speed as might be, to wage battaile against him, and to obtaine that by constraint, which he denied him ofcurtesie. As thus he was musing with himself whom he should appoint captaine generall of his armie, because he meant not in proper person to abide the hazard of the battaile, the remembrance of his sonne Gwydonius came into his mind, which not onely amazed him, but so molested him, as he was driuen into most distressed dolour, now he called to mind his merciless crueltie in correcting his faultes, and his moodlesse rigour in rebuking his follie: now he bewailed his long absence, & wished his spéedie presence: yea, he was so diuersly perplexed, as he began thus dolorously to discourse with himselfe.

ALasse (quoth he) now I see the saying of Cicero to be true, that who so wilfully peruerteth the lawes of nature, seemeth to proclaime himselfe an enemie to the gods, for that Nature neuer framed any thing amisse, wherein I haue most grieuously offended: for in beastlie rage I haue surpassed the brute beastes, and in crueltie, the senceless creatures: I haue bene more deuoyd of pitie than the Fowles of the aire, and more vnnaturall than the Fishes of the Sea. The Bird called Apis Indica, seeing the venimous Viper readie to deuoure her yong ones in the neast, presenteth her self to death, to preserue them from destruction. The Eagle is so carefull ouer her yong, that if it hap by her default one of them do perish, she willingly woundeth her selfe in many places with her owne beake. The Lion so louingly fostereth vp her whelpes, that she neuer tasteth of the praie vntill they be fully satisfied. The Fore is so carefull ouer her cubbes, that shée willingly falleth into the Hunters handes to defend her yong from harme.

But

But I vilde wretch, as though I had drunke of the Riuer Lincestis in Bohemia, which presently turneth whatsoeuer it toucheth into stones. In stead of friendly courtesie haue abused mine owne sonne with frowning crueltie, in lieu of mercy I haue brought him to misery, the fatherly affection I haue shewed him, hath béen raging furie: yea, my rigorous Nature, nay rather my vnnaturall rage hath béen such towardes him, as hée liueth a banniſhed exile in a straunge Countrey, perhappes pinched with penurie, oppressed with pouertie, wandering in the wilde desartes, in daunger of deuouring, in perill of spoyling, afflicted not onely with the maladie of the bodie, but the misery of the minde: so that no doubt he wisheth that I had neuer béene Father to such a sonne, or he neuer sonne to such a Father.

Alasse what ioy can I now inioy when I want my onely ioy? What comfort can I haue to sée my childe in calamitie? What pleasure can I take while he toyleth in penury, who now in mine age should be the staffe whereon to staie, that by his valiant courage and warlike prowesse (wherwith from his infancie hée hath béen indewed) might defend me from mine enimies, and reuẽge me of my foes. But alasse I lament too late, the calme commeth out of time, when the Shippe hath suffered already Shipwrack, and the pittifull plaintes little preuaile, where the Patient is already pushed into perill. No, no, my rage hath bœne too great, to heare of his hastie returne, my peruerse furie hath bœne such, as hée dare not abide my presence: and surely my sorrow is too great euer to be salued.

And with that Clerophontes start vppe, minding to reuenge these his cholericke cogitations by bloudie battayle vpon the confines of Alexandria, and therfore in great hast mustered all his men, made great prouision for the warre, and caused his Nauie to be rigged, for that he ment to conuey his armie by sea into Alexandria.

While thus there was no worde through the whole

Dukedome of Metelyne but warre, warre, and no newes but of the cruel conflict that should insue betweene the two Dukes. Certaine Merchantes of Alexandria, which then roade in the Hauen durst not go a shoare to sell their commodities, but as fast as winde and weather woulde serue them, higyed them out of the harbour, and coasted spœdilie into their owne Countrie: where they no sooner arriued, but they made report thereof to Orlanio, who driuen into a dumpe with this noysome newes, whether he doubted of the puissant power of Clerophontes, who was such a worthy warriour, and in battaile so bold, that no man durst abide him, or whether he feared his owne force was not able to resist the furie of his raging enimie. Hee presently summoned all his Lordes to a Parliament, where after some conference, it was concluded that Thersandro should be sent Embassadour to Metelyne to parle of peace with Clerophontes, which determination was no whit deferred, but with as much spœde as might be, the Bark wherin he should passe was prouided, the charge of the Embassage was giuen him, and hee accompanied with a traine of braue Gentlemen, departed.

But if this newes was dolefull to Orlanio, no doubt it was death it selfe to Gwydonius, who hearing that his father would bend his force against the place, wherein he was, saw all possibilitie taken away from obtayning his purpose, for he feared death if he were knowen to Orlanio, and he doubted despightful hate at the least, if he bewrayed himselfe to Castania. Which double dolour so distressed him, as he felt himselfe diuersly perplexed with dumpish passions, his mirth was turned to mourning, his pleasant conceites, to painfull cogitations: his wanton toyes, to wayling thoughtes, now hee abandoned all good company, and delighted onely in solitary life, the wildsome woodes were his walkes, and the secret shades the couert he chiefly coueted. In fine, he seemed rather a Tymon of Athens, than a Gentleman of Alexandria, so that all the Court mar-

marueiled at this so sodaine a chaunge, but especially Castania, who coniecturing his dolefull heart by his drouſie lokes, was astonished at this strange state, casting in her minde whether she had giuen him anie cause of this care, or whether by her occasion he was crossed with this calamitie. But alas poore soule, howsoeuer she aymed shee mist the marke, for Gwydonius felt his disease so secret, as hee knew none could but himselfe deuine the cause of his maladie, which no doubt was such, that it would haue inferred present death, if hee had not hoped for some happie newes by Therſandro.

Who no sooner luckely arriued at Metelyne, but Clerophontes was certified that the Dukes sonne of Alexandria was come to impart with his grace some waighty matters of importance. Now at this instant when the message was brought him, his daughter Lewcippa was by, who (as the nature of women is, desirous to see & be seene) thought she should both heare the parle, and view the person of this young Embassadour, and therefore found fish on her fingers, that she might stay still in the chamber of presence, whether presently Therſandro was sent for, who curteously and curiously doing his obeysance to the Duke, deliuered his Embassage in this maner.

WHereas (right worthie sir) Orlanio, the Duke of Alexandria, more vnwittingly then wilfullie denied certaine tribute, which he confesseth both hee and his predeceſſours haue payd to you and your aunceſtors. Hearing that hereupon your grace meaneth rather to wage battaile, then to loſe any part of your due, although he feareth not your force, as one able euerie way to withstand it, nor passeth of your puiſſance, as a Potentate sufficient to reſiſt your power. Yet, the care he hath of his subiectes safetie, and the loue he hath to preſerue the life of his commons, the regard he hath to pay and performe ỳ which conſcience and custome requireth: and lastly meaning with

Tully,

Tully, Iniquissimam pacem iustissimo bello anteponere. He hath sent me both to sue for conditions of peace, and to paie the tribute, which if your grace shal refuse, of force he must put his hope in the hazard of Fortune.

THersandro hauing thus pithely performed his charge, Clerophontes tolde him that vpon a sodaine he would not dispatch so waighty a matter, but meant first both to consult and take counsaile of his Nobles: which done, within three dayes he shoulde haue an answere. In the meane time he commaunded Lucianus the Steward of his house, verie courteously to entreate both Thersandro and his traine, and to feast them with such sumptuous fare, as they might haue cause most highly to extoll his magnificence.

But leauing Clerophontes, to consult with his learned counsailours, and Thersandro to accompanie with the lustie Courtiers, againe to Lewcippa, who while this yong youth was telling of his tale, neuer markt the matter, but the man: nor regarded not the parle, but respected the person: neuer noted the contentes, but viewed his countenance: In such sort, that shée was so scorched with the fire of fancie, and so scalded with the flame of affection, so bewitched with his beautie, and so inueigled with his bountie, as he was the onely man that made her checke at the pray, bate at the lure, and willingly yéeld to the first assault of fancie. And on the other side, Fortune is fauoured, that Thersandro printing in his heart the perfection of Lewcippas person, felt his fredome so fettered by the view of her heauenly face, and so snared in the beames of her amorous glaunces, that he wisht that either this discention had neuer growen, or that he had not béene the deliuerer of the message, for hée felt his heart alreadie so ouergrowen with good will, towardes this young Princesse, as no salue but her selfe was able to mittigate his sorrow, no medicine but her curtesie was able to cure his calamitie,

tie, and he thought to preferre his sute to his professed foe, was follie: to linger still in loue, was death and miserie: to seeke for helpe at her handes, neyther woulde the present state permit him, nor time suffer him to prosecute his purpose: daunted with these diuerse doubtes to auoyd the melancholike motions that molested his minde, he presentlie went from his lodging to the Court, that by companie hee might driue away these dumpes, where he found in the great chamber diuerse Ladies and Gentlewomen, passing away the time in pleasant parle, amongst whom was that peareless Paragon, princely Lewcippa: who (after due reuerence done to the Gentlewomen in generall) was singled out by Thersandro, and courted in this wise.

MAdame (quoth hée) if any creature hath iust occasion to accuse either nature or the gods of iniustice, man only hath the greatest cause to make this cõplaint, for there is none other so depriued of reason, or deuoyd of sence, which by some naturall instinct doth not skilfully presage of perils before they come, and warily preuent ere they bée past.

The Goates of Lybia, know certainly when the Canicular daies beginne, wherein commonly they fall blinde, and therefore by eating the hearbe Polopodium, they prouidently preuent their disease. When the Lyon leaueth his Lawnes, and raungeth in forraigne Desertes, hée alwaies foresheweth a drought. When the Fish called Vranascapos sincketh downe to the bottome of the Sea, he bewrayeth great tempestes to be imminent. But man is so farre from this secret foresight, that not onely he cannot deuine of these ensuing daungers, but rather wilfullie or willing, pusheth himselfe into most manifest perilles, which Madame, I speake, as feeling my selfe distressed with this want. For if I had béen indued with this sacred prescience, perfectly to presage of insuing perilles, I had not béene crossed with such cares as I am like to incurre,

curie, nor had cause to repent this my present arriuall. But sith lacke of such skill hath procured my losse, and that when the hurt is had it is too late to take heede, though reuealing of my mishappe cannot heale my misery, nor repeating of my paines redresse my sorrow: yet, I meane to participate my passions to your good grace, that though you cannot or will not mittigate my maladie, yet you may pitie my estate, which will somewhat ease my heauinesse. I came to your Fathers Court Madame, a free man of Alexandria, and am like to returne a captiue of Metelyne, I arriued deuoyd of care, and am like to depart, drenched with calamitie: I landed free from affection, but feare to passe hence fraught with fancie: my charge was onelie to parle of peace, but my chance is to discourse of passions. Yea, your beauty hath so fettered my freedome, and so snared my heart in the linkes of your loue, that it shall neuer be raced out by anie sinister meanes of Fortune, although I see it is almost impossible to obtaine it.

For I doubt our parentes are like to proclaime themselues professed foes, and the vrgent necessitie of my affaires, forceth me to depart so speedily, as want of time wil not suffise to make triall of my loue, whereby I might claime a sufficient guerdon for my good will: yet how soeuer the matter shall happe, whether my hope be voyd, or my happe be vaine, I meane madame to remaine yours for euer.

Lewcippa toke such delight in hearing Thersandro, discourse so louingly, as she could scarcely keepe her countenance from bewraying the pleasure she conceiued in this parle, seeing that her loue was requited with liking, and her fancie incountered with the like affection. Yet, least Thersandro should thinke her too courteous if shee should come at the first coll, and verie light of loue, to like at the first loke, she framed him this answere.

SIR (quoth shee) if of your sute for conditions of peace there insue no better successe than the reuealing of

your passions shall reape pittie at my handes, or if the intreatie for truce be as lightly respected by my Father, as either your person or petition is regarded by me, you are like to carrie home colde newes to your countrey, and to vaunt that you bad faire, but bought little: that your Haruest was long, but your corne not worth the cropping: that your venter was much, but your gaines such, as if your winning proue no better, you are like to liue by the losse. For sir, do you suppose me so sottish, as to thinke euerie one that flatters doeth fancie, or so addicted to selfe loue, as by a few filed phrases to be brought into a fooles Paradice: knowing that it is the fashion of men by their fained subtletie to deceiue our faithfull simplicitie. No, for if you meane to counterfaite, take this for a rule, it is ill halting before a créeple. But sir, this your sodaine liking bewraies the lightnesse of your loue: this your fond affection, importes the ficklenesse of your fancie: for soone hote, soone colde: easile inflamed, as quickly quenched: like to the Apples of Arabia, which beginne to rot, ere they be halfe ripe. And if I meant to loue, had I none to like but my Fathers foe? shoulde I desire him whome my Father doth detest? And if I should so farre forget mine owne stay, or my Fathers state, as to consent, it were impossible either to appease his wrath, or to get the graunt of his good will, so that to desire that which I can neuer inioy, were to driue my selfe whollie into dispaire, which would smally profite you, and greatlie displeasure me, and therefore cease to sue for that, which may well be wisht, but neuer obtained.

Thersandro although hée heard Lewcippa decide the case sufficiently, yet hee was so wilfull, that hee would not take her doome for a verdite, but returned her this replie.

MAdame (quoth hée) where in liewe of hate there insueth loue, it is alwayes the signe of the grea-

ter affection: and that it is a thing either confirmed by the Fates, or appointed by the Gods. Tereus the Prince of Thrace, being sent by his father to defie Pandion the king of Athens, was enamoured of his daughter Progne, whereby betweene the Parentes in stéede of fatall enmitie, there insued friendly amitie. When as the bloudie warres betweene Atis the king of Libia, and Lycabas the Prince of Assur, was most hot, young Admetus, being sent Embassadour into Libia, was so stroken in loue with Alcest, onelie Daughter to his fathers foe, and she repaying his liking with such loialtie, as death it self could neuer dissolue their amitie. If Madame, these premises may perswade you to take pittie of my passions, or these examples induce you, not to let the hatred of our parentes, bée a hinderance of our loue, whether your father reiect me as a foe, or accept mée as a friend, I doubt not but the destinies will driue the bargaine through, in despight of them and fortune.

Sir (quoth shée) I confesse Progne poore wench loued Tereus, but howe wretchedly did hée reward her loyaltie? and Scilla was enamored of Minos her Fathers foe, but howe tyrannously did hée repay her loue with trecherie, Tarpeia, betraied ỳ Tower of Rome to one of the Sabynes whom she most entirely loued, but the meede of her merite was extreame miserie. Shall I then Thersandro sée the traine and yet fall into the trap, shall I spie the nettes, and yet strike at the stale? shall I sée the mishap, and yet wilfully incurre the mischance? no I meane not for an inch of ioy, to reap an ell of annoy, for a moment of mirth, a month of miserie: for a dramme of pleasure, a whole pounde of paine, and by procuring mine owne delight, to purchase my fathers death and destruction. But let this suffice Thersandro to signifie howe I pittie thy passions, and thinke well of thy person, that if my Fathers will might bée framed to my wishe, if hee woulde condiscend as I would consent, thou onely art the man who in the way of mar-

marriage should dispose of me at thy pleasure. But sith the frowning state of Fortune denies our loue to haue such happie successe, hope well, and rest vpon this point, that I will alwaies like thée as a friend, though not loue thée as my phére.

As Thersandro was readie to replie, and to seale vp the bargaine of their loue vpon her swéete lippes, Clerophontes came in, who marred al their market, and turned their swéet to sower, for he gaue Thersandro his answere before Lewcippa, which was this. That he neither meant to accept of the conditions of peace, nor to receiue the tribute, but to claime his due by the doubtfull euent of battaile. That he shortly pretended in person, to visite Orlanio, and within the walles of Alexandria to demand his debt, and that he would bestow his fathers Dukedome vpon a Lord of his called Lucianus, in dowrie with his daughter Lewcippa.

Thersandro was nothing amazed with the first part of the message, but when he heard how Clerophontes meant presumptuously both to depraue him of his liuing, and depriue him of his loue, hee was so puffed vp with wrath and choller, as happe what happe would, he fell into these tearmes.

I Remember (quoth he) that Caligula the Emperour, prouiding a mightie armie to subdue great Britaine, when hée was come to the sea, readie to post ouer his souldiours in his Nauie, he left off his endlesse enterprise, and set them to gather Cockles. Siphax boldly boasting that he would bestow the kingdome of Numidia vppon his second sonne, was by Massinissa ouerthrowne, and sold as captiue to the Romanes. I dare not sir inferre comparisons, because they be odious, nor apply the examples, sith time and place forbids me: but this I say, that to fish before the net, is alwaies counted folly, and to vaunt before the victorie, is but

vanitie. Yea, and if I had as good right to your daughter Lewcippa, as I haue to the supposed dowrie which you assigne her, I would in despight of Lucianus and the diuell himselfe, dispose her at my pleasure.

Clerophontes hearing the cholerike conclusion of Thersandro, could scarcely bridle his frantike furie from raging without reason against this young youth, yet somewhat mittigating his mode, he breathed out these cruell threatnings.

IF the law of armes (quoth he) did not both safely protect thée, and surely forbid me to hurt thée in that thou art a messenger, I would with such seueritie chastice these thy presumptuous spéeches, as thou shouldest learne hereafter to answere with more reuerence: yet I wish thée not to stand too stiffe vpon this point, least if thou be so reckelesse as to breake the bondes of reason, I be so forgetfull as to passe the limits of the law. Thou hast receiued a determinate answer for the Embasse, and there I charge thée this present day to depart out of my dominions.

Thersandro fearing the tyrannie of this cruell Clerophontes, presently passed out of the chamber of Presence, taking his leaue of Ladie Lewcippa, onelie with louing lookes, which she requited with such glaunces of good will, that they were sufficient signes what insupportable sorrow she receiued by his so sodain departure: yet knowing that her fancie was incountered with mutuall affection, she droue away the mystie clowdes of dispaire, hoping that the Gods séeing their faithfull amitie, would take pittie of their passions, and in time redresse their miserie.

But Thersandro hauing with spéede dispatcht his affaires (all his traine being set aboord, and they coasting the straights with a luckie gale) was so cumbered with care, and so ouer-growne with griefe, that hée passed no houre, minute, nor moment, without wofull wailing, sorrowfull sobs, and far fecht sighs, so that the Gentlemen his compa-

nions, supposing that he was thus painfully perplexed for feare of Clerophontes puisance, began both to comfort and incourage him, not to doubt or dread the force of the enemie, sith his father was able to repulse him, without anie daunger to himselfe, or any great damage to his subiectes. But these their perswasions could no whit preuaile to asswage his passiõs, this their incouragement could not cure his care.

But as there is no greater bane to the bodie, than trouble of the minde: so Therſandro so long continued in these pensiue passions and carefull cogitations, concealing his griefe so couertly, which so much the more furiously flamed within him, that he was constrained to keep his Cabban til his arriuall at Alexandria. Where being set on shore, and presently conueied to the Court, he remained for the space of three daies so strangely perplexed, as he was not able to make report of his message: which so griped Orlanio with such inspeakeable griefe, as he wished father to haue dyed valiantly with the force of his enemy, than to put the death of his sonne in hazard by passing so perillous a iourny. But Therſandro seeing that sorrow woulde not salue his sore, but rather increase his sickneſſe: that mourning woulde not appeaſe his maledie, but rather augment his miſerie: began to take heart at graſſe, and within fewe daies began to recouer his former health. And then he declared to his father what he had in charge from Clerophontes, how hee meant speedely to wage warre against him, and by force of armes to driue him out of his Dukedom, which he had alreadie promised to one Lucianus in dowry wt his daughter.

Orlanio hearing this proude presumption of this bragging Duke, thought ỹ greateſt barkers were not alwaies the sorest biters, & that it was far more easie with wordes to obtaine the victorie, than with dedes to attaine the conquest. Yet, least he might be taken at vnawares, he made a generall muſter throughout all his Dominions, prouiding in eutrie place neceſſarie munition for the defence

of

of his Countrie. And assembling his Nobilitie to giue their verdit, who were fittest to be Captaines in this skirmish: after some consultation had in this cause, they concluded, that since Clerophontes meant to ioyne battaile in his own person, that likewise he should be Generall of the field, and Gwydonius who surpassed all the rest in martiall exploites, should be Lieutenant, and conduct the arme, which hee no sooner heard but hee was tormented with inspeakeable griefe, he began to pull downe his Peacockes feathers, to hang his wings, and crie creake: euerie man hoping to win fame was merrie, but he alone mourning: euerie man laughed, and he alone lowred: insomuch that he was generally suspected to be a fearefull coward, and that dread of danger draue him into these dolefull dumps. But as they rashly coniectured the cause of his sorrow, so they mist the nature of his sickneese: for Gwydonius seeing that of this cruell conflict his calamitie should ensue, and that this bloudie broile would breede his bane, he fell into such solitarie surmises, and such musing meditations, that Valericus his open friend, and yet his secret foe, sought by sundrie meanes to search out the cause of his care, but not being able to wring out any thing, either by flattering promises, or fained protestations, he ceased from his importunate sute. But froward fortune brought it so to passe, that Valericus comming by the chamber of Gwydonius, heard him thus desperately discoursing with himselfe.

Alasse (quoth he) I see the Sunne being at the highest declineth, the Sea being at the full tide ebbeth: calme continueth not long without a storme, neither is happinesse had long without heauinesse, blisse without bale, weale without woe, mirth without mourning. For who a late so floated in the flouds of felicitie as I, which now by the sinister meanes of frowning fortune am sowsed in the seas of sorrow, exalted alate to the highest degree of happinesse, am now driuen to the greatest extremitie of euill: alate

puffed

puffed vp with prosperitie, and now pushed downe with aduersitie: yea, alate placed in Paradise, and now plunged in perplexitie.

Oh Gwydonius, if thy Fathers friendly precepts might haue perswaded thee, if his aduice had bene thy aduertisement, and thou hadst carefully kept his counsaile, then by his fore-warning, thou hadst bene fore-armed against all mishap and miserie. The force of fickle fancie had not then giuen thée the foile, Loue had not so lightly procured thy losse, nor the painted shewe of beautie had not so soone procured thy bane. My bane? Why fond foole, beautie hath bredde my blisse, fancie hath not giuen me the foile, but hath yéelded me the fort: Loue hath not wrought my losse, but requited me with treble gaine?

Hath not Castania requited my loue with loyaltie, and repaied my good will with mutuall affection? Is shée not my Saint, and I her seruant? Are we not contracted together by loue, and shall continue together by law? May I not dispose of her in the way of marriage at my pleasure? Yes, but what then? The more is my griefe, and the greater my care. For if her presence procureth my delight, will not her absence bréede my despight? If her consent preserued my life, will not her contempt inferre my death? Yes. For alasse, since the destinies meane to dissolue that fancie hath decréed, since the frowning fates seéke to vnlose that which loue hath linked, since froward fortune meanes to breake the bondes wherein beautie hath bounde vs, since these bloudie broiles will cause Castania, (where before she accepted me for a friend) now to reiect me for a foe: What better lucke can I looke for than a loathsome life, or what better hap can I hope for than horror and heauinesse? Yea, which way so euer I turne me I see nothing but woe and wretchednesse. For if Orlando perceiued our liking, how would he storme at our loue? If he knew my chance, how would hée fret at his Daughters choyce? Would he euer consent, that Castania should match with so meane a mate,

that her princely personage should bee disgraced with my base parentage, that her calling should be crazed with my slender countenance: no, he would no doubt first banish me out of all his dominions. Tush Gwydonius, would God this were the worst, and then thou mightest hope in time by some means to redresse this doubt. But if Orlanio shuld know thou wert heire apparant to the Dukedome of Metelyne, and onely sonne to Clerophontes his fatal foe, what torment were there so terrible, which thou shouldest not trie? What paine so pinching, which thou shouldest not passe? What hap so hard which thou shouldest not hazard? Yea, what death so direfull, which at his cruell hands thou shouldest not suffer? And what if Castania were priuie to thy state, doest thou thinke her so constant as to consent to her fathers foe? Doest thou thinke shee would wishe the sonnes weale, when the father wisheth her mishap? No, assure thy selfe if thy state be once knowne, that Castania will most deadly detest thée, which will be more grieuous to thée than death it selfe, be it neuer so terrible. Sith then Gwydonius, thou must shortly either go in armes against thine owne father, or else lose both thy loue and thy life, let not delaie breede daunger, but strike on the stith while the yron is hot, Castania hath promised to forsake both father, friends, and her owne Countrie, to passe where and when it pleaseth thée, she doubteth no dangers, she forceth of no misfortune, she careth for no calamitie, she passeth for no perils, so she enioy thy desired companie, and therefore as spédely as may be, conuey her closely into the confines of Metelyne, before either shée know thy staie or thy state. And shall I so practise her with policies? Shall I so sift her with subtiltie? Shall I put so little truste in her troth, and so small confidence in her constancie, as to conceale frō her any secret? No, come woe, come wretchednesse, come death, come daunger, hap what hap will, I will presently impart vnto her my present state, and my pretended purpose.

Valericus hearing this doubtfull discourse of Gwydonius, was driuen into an extasie for ioy, to see ỳ he had founde such fit meanes, wherby hee might not onelie purchase the Dukes fauour, aspire vnto honour and dignitie, but also obtaine the loue of Castania, for hée meant spedelie to preuent the pretence of Gwydonius, by vnfolding to the Duke the summe of his secret purpose, assuring himselfe, that after Orlanio knew his parents and parentage, that hee was sonne and heire to Clerophontes, no price though neuer so precious, no ransom though neuer so rich, might redéeme him from the most despitefull death that could be deuised. And of these premises he inferd this conclusion, that if the cause be taken away, the effect faileth: that Gwydonius being reiected, he should be receiued: that he being despighted with hate, he should be requited with loue, and vpon this hope he went presently to bewray this matter to Orlanio, whom he found with his sonne Thersandro, and diuerse other noble men cõsulting what course they had best take against Clerophontes, whom Valericus saluted in this wise.

PLato (right worthie Prince) that graue and wise Philosopher, whose sentences in all ages haue bene holden as most diuine Oracles, portraieth out in his bookes of his Common wealth, the picture of a perfect Citizen, whose liniaments being first leuelled, hée tricketh vp with these colours, that he loue his Prince loyallie, kéepe the lawes carefully, and defend his Country valiantly, in which three pointes (saith hée) consisteth the chiefest dutie of a trustie subiect: This saying of Plato throughly considered, and calling to minde the sundrie good turnes which without desert your grace hath bestowed vpon mée, I thought if I shoulde not repaie your fauour with faithfulnesse, and your trust you repose in mée with inuiolable troth, I might bée counted a vicious vassall deuoide of all ver-

tues,a trecherous citizen,rather thē a trusty subiect,a careleſſe ſlaue,than a careful gentlemā: yea,a graceleſſe monſter,miſled with ingratitude. I am come (rightworthie ſir) not to betray my ſo,but to bewray my frend,not to diſcouer ỳ falt of my enemy,but to diſcloſe his offence,which liueth with me in perfect amity,in whoſe company hitherto hath bene all my ioy, pleaſure & delight: but ſince his pretence is greatly preiudiciall to your graces perſon, I thought to prefer your profit before mine own pleaſure,& the commoditie of my countrie, before mine owne priuate contentation. So it is,that Gwydonius,whom your Grace hath honoured, and all the Court eſtéemed, is ſonne and heire to Clerophontes the Duke of Metelyne, who by the péeuiſh pollicie of his Father, vnder the pretence of ſeruice, is purpoſed to procure your fatall death, and the finall deſtruction of your Dukedome. And the better to performe this diueliſh practiſe, hée hath contracted himſelfe to my Ladie Caſtania, who blinded with his beautie, and inueigled with his wit, hath conſented not onelie to kéepe his counſaile to your confuſion, but alſo cloſely to conuey her ſelfe with him into his Countrie. Which pretence if your Grace doth not ſpéedely preuent, you ſhall finde that delay bréedes daunger, and that procraſtination in perils is but the mother of miſhap.

And haue I (quoth Orlanio) brought vp the bird that wil picke out mine own eies? Haue I foſtered vp the Serpent in my boſome that will bréede my bane? Haue I giuen her life, that ſéekes to yéeld me death? Haue I cheriſht her being young, and will ſhe conſume me being older: Was there none to chooſe but Gwydonius, nor none to loue, but the ſonne of her fathers foe? Will ſhe preferre her luſt before my life, her priuate pleaſure, before the ſafetie of my perſon? Well, as ſhée forgets the dutie of a childe, ſo I wil forget the naturall affection of a father, and therefore Valericus goe ſpeedily with theſe noble men to Gwydonius chamber, and apprehend him, that I may requite his hatefull trecherie with moſt helliſh torments. And Therſandro

ſée

see you that Castania be closely kept vntill we haue caught the traitour, least shée vnderstanding that their deuise is disclosed, she saue her selfe by flight.

Valericus hauing this commission giuen him from the Duke, made no delay, but passed to Gwydonius lodging with as much spéede as might be: but fortune who after euerie chip of mischance, sendeth some lot of good lucke, and after euerie storme of aduersitie, sendeth a quiet calme of prosperitie, so carefully prouided to frée Gwydonius from mishap, that he was newly gone towardes Castania, to impart vnto her this his pretence, but before he came to her chamber, he was encountered by Therſandro, who sternly taking Gwydonius by the bosome, pulling out his rapier commanded him as a traitour to stand, or else without any farther dome he should feele the dint of death.

Gwydonius amazed with this sodaine motion, stode as one in a traunce, neither being able to defend himself with worde or weapon, but yéelded himselfe into the handes of Therſandro, who shakt him vp with these bitter spéeches.

THou traiterous wretch (quoth he) as it is impossible for the flame so closely to be couered, but it will be spied, so it is impossible, but that treason, though neuer so secret, should in tract of time be disclosed, which nowe by experiẽce is verified in thée, for although thou hast hetherto falsely fained thy selfe to be a stranger of a forraigne nation, thou art now known to be sonne and heire to Clerophontes that cruell tyrant my Fathers Foe, by whose péeuish pollicie thou hadst not only brought ỳ common wealth to confusion, but didst pretend to be preiudiciall to my Fathers person, if thy deadly practise and diuellish purpose had not by Valericus his meanes béen preuented. Hast thou béene so trained vp in treacherie, or is thy minde so spotted with villanie, as to repay my fathers good will vñ such barbarous ingratitude, & to deuise his destruction which simply forsought thy preferment. Yea, to counsell my sister

Castania, not onely to consent to thy desire, but to my fathers death? Is this the maner of Metelyne, or the custome of thy country, to be such cosening counterfaites? Well, since I haue happely attached thee as a traitour, and as a villanous rebell, both transgressing humaine and diuine lawes, thou shalt abide the paine and punishment due to such diuelish offenders. Nowe let thy cruell fire Clerophontes, free thee from those torments which thou art like to suffer for thy trecherie, and let the Lordes of Metelyne deliuer thee from his handes, who meanes in most miserable wise to martir thee. Yea, let thy Concubine Castania, who is like for her graceiesse disobediẽce, to sip of the same sorrow: see if her teares will nowe preuaile to moue Olranio to pittie. No, if Iupiter himselfe sent Mercurie to mittigate his mode, neither the authoritie of the one, nor the eloquence of the other might preuaile to pacifie his furie.

GWydonius seeing that not onely his purpose was preuented, and his secrets disclosed, but that also Valericus most villanously had accused him and Castania of that which they neuer so much as once imagined, was so perplexed, and driuen into such dumpes, as hee seemed by silence to auerre that which Therſandro had alleadged, yet at last he began thus to reply.

THerſandro (quoth he) as I meane not to affirme that which is false, so I will not denie that which is true, but come dolor, come death, come miserie, come martyrdome, come torture, come torments, I will neither accuse my selfe iniustly, nor excuse my selfe by periurie. I confesse Therſandro, that I am sonne and heire to the Duke of Metelyne, and contracted to thy sister Castania, that Clerophontes, is my father by the lawe of nature, and Castania my wife by the league of loue, but that I either pretended or purposed to be preiudiciall to Orlanios person, or that Castania was counsailed or euer consented to her fathers con-

confusion, I not onely deny, but I will proue by combat, that Valericus moste villanously doth accuse vs of that whereof we are altogether sackleſſe.

WHy Gwydonius, (quoth hée) wilt thou séeke to proue thy ſelfe loyall, when the hearers déeme thée a lyer, or to make a tryall of thy troth, whē thy words can haue no truſt? Doeſt thou thinke my fathers furie will ſuffer thée to fable? Doeſt thou thinke his wrathfull rage will abide thy reaſons, or ý he wil be ſo patient as to heare thée plead thine owne cauſe? No, if thou wert as cléere from theſe crimes alleadged againſt thée by Valericus as I am, yet in that thou art ſon to Clerophontes, the coine of Crœſus, and kingdomes of Cæſar, were not ſufficient ranſome to redéeme thée frō death. But Gwydonius, ſince thy health hāgeth in my hands, and thy life or death is in my power, I will neither be ſo bloudie minded as to bréede thy bane, nor ſo cruell, as to be the cauſe of thy confuſion. The guerdon Gwydonius I craue of this my good will, and the recompence I claime for this curteſie, is that when thou cōmeſt to Metelyne, thou certifie thy ſiſter and my loue and Lady Lewcippa, that for her ſake I haue procured thy ſafetie, that her perfection hath preſerued thée from perill, the loue I beare her hath ſaued thy life, the dutifull deuotion I owe vnto her, hath redéemed thée from death and daunger. And in token of this my vnſained affection, I wil lift my hand againſt none that commeth from Metelyne, but againſt Lucianus onely.

Before Therſandro was able fullie to vnfold his mind, or that Gwydonius had time to yéeld him thankes for the ſafegard of his life, they heard a great noyſe, which made Gwydonius flie, and Therſandro hie him haſtely to Caſtanias lodging. Now the companie which came, was Orlanio himſelfe, who certified by Valericus that Gwydonius could not be found, laid not only watch & ward throughout all his dukedome to attach him, but went in proper perſon

with

with his Card to aphzehend Caſtania, and lay her in cloſe pziſon, whom he found all blubbered with teares, foz that ſhe had vnderſtood the cauſe beſoze of her bzother Therſandro: Orlanio no ſoner ſpied her thus weeping, but he raged againſt her in this wiſe.

HAth the foꝛce of loue, nay rather the furie of luſt (vild wꝛetch) ſo blinded thy vnderſtanding, that to accompliſh it, thou paſſeſt not to peruert both humane and diuine lawꝛs: Doth laſciuious affection and fleſhly fancie ſo furiouſly frie within thee, as thou wouldeſt pꝛocure thy fathers death to purchaſe thy diueliſh deſire? Could no rules of reaſon, no pꝛicke of conſcience, no reſpect of honeſtie, no feare of God, noꝛ dꝛead of man, pꝛohibit thee from pꝛetending ſuch a monſtrous miſchiefe, as to conclude with my moꝛtall foe to woꝛke my fatall confuſion? The young Stoꝛks ſo tender the olde ones in their age, as they will not ſuffer them ſo much as to flie to get their owne liuing. The bird called Apis Indica, being young, ſeeing ỹ old ones thꝛough age growen ſo weake, as they are not able to waue theyꝛ wings, carry them continually from place to place on their backs: theſe ſauage creatures haue but onely ſence, and are obedient, thou haſt both reaſon and ſence, and art moꝛe vnnaturall, theſe bꝛute beaſtes are moſt dutifull to their parents, & thou a reaſonable creature art moſt diſobedient to thy father: yea, contrarie both to the lawes of nature and nurture, thou ſeekeſt to bath thy handes in his guiltleſſe bloud, & without care oꝛ conſcience, to commit moſt cruell murther, which is ſo hateful to all things, as the ſenceleſſe plants and ſtones moſt deadly deteſt ſuch villanie. The Oliue tree ſo hatefully abhoꝛreth a Paraſite, that who ſo being guiltie of that crime, attempteth to plant it, doth not onely himſelfe pꝛeſently periſh, but the tree foꝛthwith waineth and withereth. The ſtone Epiſtrites, ſo loatheth this offence, couting it a fact ſo repugnant to nature, that it will not vouchſafe to be woꝛne by a murtherer. And ſhal I then

let

let thée liue, whome the senceleſſe creatures doe ſo deadly loath? No, this hand which cheriſht thœ being a child, ſhall now chaſtiſe thée bzing ſuch a curſed caitiſe. And with that he dzew out his Faulkon ready to haue ſlain her. But that Therſandro knœling dolwne, deſired him that hee would not ſo in his furie fozget himſelfe, as without the ſentence of the law put her to death, but to commit her to ward, vntill the wars betweene him and Clerophontes, were happily ended, and then vppon moze ſtraight examination, if ſhe were found faultie, to aſſigne her a puniſhment due foz ſuch an offence. Orlanio, ſomwhat pacified with his ſonnes perſwaſion, commaunded that pzeſently ſhée ſhould be carried to pziſon, and the Ladie Melytta with her, as an actoz in this Tragedie. And that with all ſpéede they ſhould poſt the countrie foz the attaching of the traytoz Gwydonius. Who after that he parted from Therſandro, ſeeing befoze his eyes the terrour of tozmentes, and the helliſh hozrour of death, was dziuen fozward ſo with the dzead of danger, and feare of imminent perils, that knowing perfectly the coaſt of the Countrey, he paſſed ſo ſecretly and ſpœdily, as he was not ſo much as once deſcried by the Poſts that purſued him, but ſcaped ſafely out of the Dukedome of Alexandria. Being now without the dint of the Dukes danger, ſeeing that although he had eſcaped himſelfe, yet he had left his loue and ladie Caſtania in hazard of her life, he began thus to exclaime againſt his owne folly.

AH Gwydonius (quoth hée) what fo!lie haſt thou committed by this fearefull flight, what carefull calamitie is like to inſue of this thy cowardiſe, in auoyding Scilla thou art fallen into Charibdis, in pzeuenting one daunger, thou art like to be plagued with a thouſand diſcommodities. Had it not bẽn better foz thée to haue died in Alexandria, with honoz, than to liue hẽre with ſhame & repzoch, to haue ſuffered miſhappe with Caſtania, then to linger hẽre in miſery? Doeſt thou thinke that ſhe wil euer count

of such a prating Parasite, as will loue her in prosperitie, and leaue her in aduersitie, as preferreth his owne safetie before her securitie, his life before her loue, and draweth himselfe out of danger to leaue her in distresse: No, she wil contemne thée as a coward, more fit to be mate to some countrie slut, than a match for such a courtly Princesse, shée will thinke thy greatest faith was but fained fickleness, thy forged loue was but filthie lust, thy promises was but periuries, and that thy greatest amitie was but most dissembled enmitie: so that of a professed friend, she will become thy professed foe, her desire will turne to despite, and her loue to most hellish hate.

Why alas, would my paine haue pleased her, would my martirdome haue contented her minde, had my perill procured her profite, or my care her commoditie. Nay, rather would not my danger haue béen her death, my mishap her misery, my torture her tormentes, and my fatall destinie her final destructiõ. By sauing my life in time we may enioy our loue, but by death no hope had béene left for obtaining our desire: so that I assure my selfe, Castania, will rather allow of my pollicie by preuenting perilles by flight, than mislike of my practise in procuring mine owne safetie. And vpon this point I rest, hoping that the Gods séeing how vniustly Valericus hath accused vs, will in tract of time rid vs from blame, and reward him with shame.

Gwydonius was not more distressed with dolour, than poore Castania was combred with care, to sée so strange a chaunce, and so sodaine a change, that she who of late was a royall Princesse, was now a ruthfull prisoner, that her frædome was turned to fetters, her dignitie to miserie, & her happie staie, to a most hellish state: that after flouds of teares which fell from her christall eies, she burst forth into these tearmes.

Alas (quoth shée) what poore Damosell was euer driuen into such doubtfull distresse? What Princes was

euer

euer perplexed with such doleful passions? what maid was euer crossed with such mishappe? nay what creature euer was clogged with the like calamitie? Haue the spightfull destinies decréed my destruction, or the peruerse Planets conspired my bitter bane? Doth frowarde fortune meane to make me a mirrour of her mutabilitie, or is this the reward that Cupid bestowes vpon his Clyents? Is euerie one that doth fancie, maimed with the like misfortune, or is loue alwaies accompanied with such hapleſſe lucke? Alas no, for their loue is lawfull, and mine lewd and lasciuious: their fancie is fixed vppon vertue, and mine vppon vanitie, they make their match with consent of their parents, and I my market with my fathers counsaile: so that I am like in chosing such chaffre, to chop and change and liue by the losse: yea, to buy repentance at an vnreasonable rate. Had it not béen better for thée Castania, to haue condescended to the requestes of Valericus, than consented to the sute of Gwydonius: to haue liked thine owne Countrey man, than loued a straggeling stranger: to haue satisfied thy selfe with assurance, than vainly to fishe for hope? Trueth, but what then? Can the strawe resist the vertue of the pure Jet? Can the flare resist the force of the fire? Can a louer withstand the brunt of beautie? Fréeze, if he stand by the flame: peruert the lawes of nature, or eschue that which is framed by the fates, or flie from the force of fancie? No, for who so escapeth the deadly dartes of Cupid, shall be scorched with his fire, and shée that with the dew of chastitie quencheth this flame, shall be ouertaken with his winges, so that to séeke by slight to eschue affection, is foolishly to enterprise that which can neuer be atchieued.

But alas, if I must nérdes lend a listening eare to the allurementes of loue, was there none to like but thy Fathers foe? How fond foole, couldest thou shew him curtesie, that intendes to repay thée with crueltie? Howe couldest thou chose the sonne to thy mate, when the Father séekes

thy misery: It is not possible to mixe the bloud of a Bull and a Beare, togither in one vessell. The Lions whelpes will neuer companie with yong Wolues: the Faulchons called Pelagræ, will neuer flie with the young Lauerets, and if the Egges of a Crowe and a Curlewe be put in one nest, they both forthwith burst in sunder, because there is such ancient enmitie betweene the old ones. And wilt thou then be so wilfull to loue him whom thy father doth loath, or so peruerse as to place thy self in that parentage, where there is such mortall hatred betweene the Parents? Wilt thou so farre forget the duetie of a childe, as more to respect thy fatall enimie, than regard thy naturall father? But why vilde wretch doe I thus fondly fable, though Clerophontes be my Fathers foe, yet Gwydonius is my faithful friend: though the one seeke to procure my paine, the other seekes to purchase my pleasure: though the olde sire striues to subuert my fathers state, yet the sonne neuer sought to be preiudiciall to his person: although that perured Parasite Valericus hath most vniustly accused him of trecherie. Shall I then hate him who hath alwaies honored me? Shall I worke his wo that wisheth my weale? Shall I be his bane, who hath bred my blisse? Shall I detest him which serueth me with most deepe deuotion? No, I heere heartily powre out most pittifull plaintes to the Gods to preserue my Gwydonius from perill, and that fortune may so fauour him as he may passe out of Alexandria without death or danger. What though I heere in prison pine in paine? What though I sinke in sorrowe? What though I be distressed with griefe & oppressed with misery? What though I be crossed with care, and cumbered with calamitie? Tush, let my father fret and fume in his furie, let my brother rage and rayle, let that traytor Valericus triumph, and all the Countrie most bitterly curse mee, yea, let them martyr mee most miserablie, let them torment me most terrible, yet direfull death shall not feare mee, as long as I know Gwydonius is deuoyde of danger.

For

For I hope though Fortune frowne, though the destinies deny it, though the fates forsweare it, yea, though the gods themselues say no, yet in time we shall haue such happie successe, as the loyaltie of our loue, and the cléernesse of our conscience by the law of iustice do deserue. And therefore Gwydonius shall be the Planet whereby to direct my doings, he shall be the starre shall guide my compasse, he shal be the hauen to harbour in, and the Saint at whose shrine I meane to offer my deuotion.

Castania hauing thus discoursed with her selfe, she determined when the warres were ended, if she could haue no hope to enioy the loue of Gwydonius, to confesse her faults, and to sue for mercie at the barre of her fathers curtesie, not that she meant to liue without Gwydonius, or to loue or like any other, but to prolong her daies in dolour, that she might most rigorously reuenge the villany of Valericus, and by bathing in his bloud she might both satisfie her selfe and signifie to Gwydonius how entirely she loued and liked him. But leauing her perplexed with these passions, againe to Clerophontes.

Who frying still in his frantike furie, was not anie whit perswaded to conclude peace with Orlanio, but hauing mustered his men, as spédely as might be, imbarkt them, and with a luckie gale arriued at the coast of Alexandria, where the borderers not able to abide his force, were constrained to saue themselues by flight. But he as a man hauing exiled from his heart both pietie and pitie, bathed his hands in guiltlesse bloud, firing euerie fort, battering downe euerie bulwarke, sacking each Citie, racing downe the wals to the ground, and commanding his souldiours vppon paine of most grieuous punishment, not to haue any respect of persons, neither to regarde the hoarie haires of the aged Cittizens, nor the tender yeeres of the sucking Infants, but to imbrue their blades with ỹ bloud of all men, of what degrée so euer.

Orlanio hearing how Clerophontes had inuaded his

dominions, and with what barbarous crueltie hée had murthered his subiectes, hauing also intelligence by his Scowtes, that his armie was passing huge, the better to resist the furious force of his enemie, hired out of other Countries a great multitude of Mercenarie Souldiours, so that hée gathered a maruellous great hoast, wherein was an infinite number indued with great skill and long experience.

Furnished thus sufficiently both with men and munition like a wise and warie Captaine, seeing that hée no waie else might resist the puisant power of so mightie a Prince, determined without further delaie to meete him and giue him present battaile, hauing maruellous affiance in the approued manhode and vertue of his souldiours.

Clerophontes likewise being of such a valiant and inuincible courage, as he seemed from his infancy to be vowed to Mars and martiall affaires, manfully marched forward to meete with his enemies, which he performed so spedelie, that within fewe daies, both the armies were within view, which Clerophontes seeing, he began to incourage his souldiours on this sort.

ALthough most trustie subiectes (quoth hee) I neither doubt of your prowesse, nor haue cause to feare your manhood, as hauing mine armie fraught with ỹ most couragious Captaines, and boldest blouds of Metelyne, yet I wish you to consider how desperately we haue aduentured vpon the conquest of this Dukedom, which if we atchieue, we shall not onely gaine perpetuall fame and renowme, but reape such riches and treasure, as shall sufficientlie counteruaile our trauaile. But to obtaine this victorie we must behaue our selues valiantly, neither dreading any dãger though neuer so desperate, nor doubting anie perill though neuer so fearefull. Before our face wée haue our enemies, behinde our backes the surging seas, so that fight

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we must, but flie wée cannot: in being couragious wée winne the field and returne conquerours: in proouing cowardes, we both lose our liues and the conquest: if wée foile our foes, we returne with triumph, if we faint and flie, we haue no hope of safetie, but death and desperation is imminent. Be then hardy to hazard, and valiant to venture amidst the prease of your enemies, that daunted with your valour, they may be forced to flie, & we both triumph and enioy the treasure.

CLerophontes hauing thus louinglie incouraged his souldiours, Orlanio on the other side séeing his men began to feare the force of the enemie, and were amazed with such a monstrous multitude, prickt them forwarde with this parle.

That mightie Monarch Alexander the great, who for his martiall exploites was a mirrour to all his posteritie, whose prowesse was such, as he danted Darius, and by his inuincible courage made a conquest of the whole worlde: hearing on a time one of his Captaines to demaund what multitude was in their enemies campe, answered, that it was not the point of a good souldiour, to inquire how many the enemies were, but where they were: meaning that to feare the multitude is rather the signe of cowardise, than a token of courage. Which saying I wish you carefully to consider, ỹ the huge armie of Clerophontes neither amaze your minds, nor abate your valour, sith that the equitie of our cause doth more than counteruaile his companie. He inuadeth our realme without reason, & we defend but our owne right: he cruelly séeketh to depriue vs of frédome, & we lawfully do maintain our own liberty. He tyrannously strriueth to make vs bondslaues, and we fight to frée our selues from captiuitie. If he preuaile let vs looke for no pitie, but ỹ we shalbe murthered wout mercy, we shal sée before our face our wiues rauished, our daughters defloured,

our

our parents put to death, our children slain, our goods spoiled, our Citie sacked, and our selues brought to vtter ruth and ruine. Sith then we are placed betweéne two extremities, either to possesse our own with plentie, or to passe our liues in penurie: let vs valiantly venter whatsoeuer we gaine, let vs fight without feare, for better it is to die with honour, than to liue with shame.

By that time Orlanio had ended his Oratiõ, the armies met in a plaine, within thirtie leagues of Alexandria. Where both of them ordering (as became good Captaines) their people, there began in the breake of the daie the most cruell and terrible battaile that earst was heard of, considering the number on both parts, their experience & pollicie, with the valiant prowesse and courage of the captains. Thus continued they in fight, euen almost vntill euen, with maruellous slaughter on both sides, the victorie yet doubtfull, till in the ende the Alexandrians began to faint and flie, more oppressed with the excesse of the multitude, than distressed for want of manhood, for there were two and fortie thousand slaine, but not one taken prisoner, and of Clerophontes company eight and twentie thousand slaine, and fiue hundered mortallie wounded. This monstrous massacre, and fearefull slaughter, so amazed the mindes of these two Captaines, that for the better burying of ỹ dead, and healing of them which were hurt, they concluded a truce betweéne them for fifténe daies, in which time Orlanio sent Ambassadours to parle of peace with Clerophontes, but in vaine: for hée was resolued either valiantly to die in the field with glorie, or to enioy the Dukedome of Alexandria with renowme. Yet as a worthie Prince, preferring the securitie of his souldiours before the safetie of his owne person, he offered them the combat, which Orlanio to auoyd the effusion of bloud, most willingly accepted. Now it was agreed and concluded betweéne them, that two champions might be chosen, who by the dint of the

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ſword ſhould ſtint the ſtrife betweene theſe two armies. If he of Metelyne remained victor, then Orlanio ſhould not onelie paie his former tribute, but deliuer vp his Dukedome into the hands of Clerophontes. But if the Alexandrians obtained the conqueſt, the Duke of Metelyne ſhould peaceably depart the Countrie, releaſe the tribute, and alſo reſigne his ſtate, and become a ſubiect to Orlanio. And for the better keeping and confirming of theſe conditions, they preſently diſpatcht Embaſſadors to Fernandus ỹ king of Bohemia, to intreat his Maieſtie that he would vouchſafe to become iudge in the combat, who for that he wiſhed well to both theſe Dukes, graunted to their requeſts, and with as much ſpéd as might bé, came to Alexandria. But in the meane time there was ſome difference about the champions, for Clerophontes ſaid, that ſith in loſing ỹ field conſiſted the loſſe of liuing, life, and libertie, and in getting the victorie the gaine of a Dukedome, he would in proper perſon fight the combat, and trie the chaunce of Fortune, and therefore made a challenge to Orlanio. But hee finding himſelfe farre vnfit to reſiſt his furious force, refuſed it. Yet promiſing, that none vnleſſe he were deſcended of Nobilitie, ſhould enter the liſts, wherewith Clerophontes was verie well contented. Now while this truce continued, which was prolonged for thirtie daies, it was lawfull for them of Alexandria to come and view the campe of Metelyne, and for the Metelynes to goe and ſée the Cittie. Whereupon Clerophontes deſirous to ſée Orlanio and his Court, went onelie accompanied with his gard to Alexandria, where he was moſt roially entertained, and ſumptuouſly feaſted by Orlanio, both of them remitting the rigour of their mallice, till it ſhould be ſhewed in effect, by reaſon of their manhood. But as ſoone as Therſandro and the other Lordes ſaw Clerophontes, that he was rather a monſter than a man, hauing each limme ſo ſtrongly couched, each part ſo proportioned, ſo huge of ſtature, & ſo fierce of countenance, they were ſo daunted with the ſight of his

person, as they almost feared to come in his presence, saying: that three of the boldest bloudes in Alexandria were not able to abide the force of Clerophontes. Who nowe peaceablie departing to his hoast, left Orlanio as greatly perplexed for assembling his nobilitie together. amongst whom he appointed the champion should be chosen. They not onely with one consent withstood his command, but began to murmure and mutine against him, cõdemning him of follie that hee would so vnaduisedlie commit his owne state and their staie to the doubtfull hazarde of one mans hap. Orlanio seeing that it was now no time to chastise this their presumption, vnlesse he meant to raise ciuil dissention in the cittie, which were the next way to confirme the enemie, and breede his owne confusion, he dissembled his choler, and began to worke a new waie. For first he freed Castania out of prison, then made generall proclamation throughout his Dukedome, that what Lord so euer within his land would trie the combat with Clerophontes, if he remained victor in the conquest, he would not onelie give him his daughter Castania to wife, let him possesse peaceably the Dukedome of Metelyne as her dowrie, but be content to acknowledge him as his liege, & paie him tribute, as he was wont to Clerophontes.

While he lingred and listned how this proclamation would preuaile, Castania hearing this seuere sentence, and dolefull doome pronounced, seeing that she should not onely be forced to forsake Gwydonius, but bee constrained to match in mariage with one whom she should neither loue nor like, burst forth into these bitter complaints.

Alasse (quoth she) how pinching a paine is it to be perplexed with diuerse passions, what a noisome care it is to be cumbered with sundrie cogitations, what a woe it is to hang betweene desire and despaire, and what a hell it is to houer betweene feare and hope. For as to him which is assured to die, death is no dolor, in that he perfectly knows

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there is no salue can cure his sorow, so to him which feares to die, and yet hopes to liue, death were thrice more welcome, than to linger in such doubt. In which cursed case alasse my care consisteth, for as out of the riuer Cea in Sicilia burseth most fearefull flames, and yet the streame is passing cold, neither is the water able to quech the fire, nor the fire cause the water to be hot, so the heat of hope flameth out of the chilling fountaine of feare, & yet the force of the one is not able to asswage the vehemency of the other, but still my heauie heart is diuersly assailed with them both. If my father Orlanio win the conquest, I doubt my desire shall neuer haue happie successe, if Clerophontes triumph as victor, I greatly feare his crueltie is such, as I shal not escape most hapless death. And yet again I hope that then my owne Gwydonius will accept me for his, and with triumphant armes embrace me. But alasse, will Clerophontes suffer him to match with his mortall foe, wil he not rather preuent it by my perill? Yes no doubt, if he returne with triumph my father shall serue him as a subiect, my brother shall become his vassall, my friendes shall bee forlorne, my Cittie sackt, and my native Countrie brought to vter confusion. And shall I for the loue of a straunger wish these straunge Stratagems? Shall I to feede mine owne fancie, and content my lusting minde, wish my fathers death, my brothers bane, my friends mishap, my Countries confusion, and perhappes my owne miserie. For though Gwydonius loued mée when our parentes were friendes, hée will not now like me being foes: but to reuenge the iniuries my father offered him, will subtillie séeke to sacke my honour and honestie, and so triumph of my shame and discredite. Had I not better praie my father may winne the combat, and then shall I bathe in the streames of blisse, and flow in the flouds of felicitie, then shall I dread no daunger, no feare, no perils: then shall I see my father, friends, and Country, flourish in most happie prosperitie: then shall I enioy some iollie Gentleman,

who will loue me being young, and cherish me being olde, and possesse the Dukedome of Metelyne for my dowrie. And canst thou Castania be so ingratefull, as to will his woe which wisheth thy weale, to desire his destruction which praieth for thy prosperitie? Canst thou be so couetous as to craue that for thy possession, which is thy Gwydonius patrimonie, or so suspitious, as to accuse him of trecherie, which hath beene but too trustie: to count him a counterfait, which hath alwaies beene constant? No, come what come will, let froward Fortune fauour whom shée please, so I may ioy and safely enioy my onelie ioy Gwydonius.

As Castania had thus ended her complainte, Gwydonius who all this while lurked about the borders of Alexandria, heard what successe Orlanios affaires had with his Father Clerophontes, how verie fewe or none at all durst trie the combat with him, that his loue and Ladie Castania was the prise that hée should get that gained the conquest. Which things considered, supposing that Castania had cast him off, and that she plaide, out of sight, out of minde, by a secret and trustie messenger, he presented her with this Letter.

Gwydonius to Castania, health.

THe pure spice Castania, the more it is pounded, the sweéter smell it yéelds, the Camomill increaseth most being trodden on, the Palme trée the greater waight it beareth, the straighter it groweth: the stone Terpistrees, the more it is beaten, the harder it is, and loyall loue is not weakened by the stormes of aduersitie, but rather farre the more fortified by the froward state of frowning Fortune: which Madame I speake by proofe and experience,

ence, for since I haue sipped off the sower dregs of sorrow, and bèen pestered with the bitter pills of penury, since sinister fortune hath crossed me to the mishaps, and disaster fates haue driuen me downe to miserie, my fancy hath so furiously assaulted my minde, and affection hath so incessantly battered the bulwarke of my brest, as the sparkes of loue which kindled in mée in prosperitie, are turned to fierce and firie flames by aduersity. So that madame, your presence did not before procure me such pleasure, as your absence doth paine, neither was I so drowned in delight, in frequenting your company, as I am drenched with despight, by leading my life in sorowfull calamitie. Alasse Castania, what vnspeakeable griefe hath tormented mée? what direfull dolour hath distressed mée? what hellishe horrour hath haunted mée? yea, what woe and wretchednesse hath wracked my wittes, since thou hast bèene proclaimed a pray to him whosoeuer winneth the prise in the combat. Howe oft haue I wished that I might be the champion to make the challenge, that I might venture my life to purchase thy libertie, that my death might redeme thée from danger.

But alasse, I sée to wish is in vaine, to craue of ỳ Gods, that thy Father should vaunt of the victorie, is but to wish that your loue should haue hapless successe: to praie that Clerophontes shoulde returne with conquest, thou wilt déeme I desire thy friendes misfortune, thus assailed with diuers doubtes, I drine off my dayes in dolour: hoping howsoeuer fortune frowne, that the fates will assigne vs a perfect calme of parmanent felicitie, for this sturdie storme of pinching miserie.

Thine euer, exiled
Gwydonius.

CAstania hauing receiued this Letter, séeing that no sinister chaunce of fortune was able to chaunge the fixed fancy of Gwydonius, conceiued such assured hops in his constancy, as now she thought his troth was filed with no spot of treachery, that his faith was quite deuoide of flatterie, & that whatsoeuer chaunced, she might safly repose her stay and state in his loyalty. Insomuch that to driue out the euill opinion which she thought her brother Therſandro had conceiued of Gwydonius conspiracie, shée secretlie shewed him the Letter, which after he had read ouer, and carefully construed euerie clause, he began both to detect and detest the villanie of Valericus, desiring his sister Castania that she would earnestly perswade Gwydonius in disguised apparell spéedily to repaire to her lodging, promising with solempne vowes and sacred oaths, not to be preiudiciall to his person: Castania affying greatly in her brothers faith, and desirous to haue a sight of her louing Gwydonius, returned him these few lines.

Castania to Gwydonius,
prosperitie.

WHo so taſteth Gwydonius of the hearbe Mely Sophilos is neuer tormented with the sting of aduersitie, and she that weareth the stone Mephites about her, neuer sorroweth at sinister fortune, who so fancieth without fayning neuer proueth fickle, and she that loueth loyallie may wel be crossed with calamitie, but neuer iustly accused of inconstancie. Account thy Castania good Gwydonius to be in the same predicamēt, for let disaster mishap driue downe to most deadly miserie, let the cruell fates compasse me with cursed care, let fortune and the destinies conclude my confusion, yet it shall not diminish my fancie, but rather increase my affection. I will still in weale, in woe, in bale, in blisse, in mirth & misery, say I loue, and it is

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onely Gwydonius. For shall our fancie be such as it shall be foiled with misfortune: no, but as Thetis chaunging into many shapes, at last returned into her own forme, so into what mishap I be driuen by miserie, yet I will stand in mine old state in despight of the fates and fortune. Come therefore Gwydonius to the Court in disguised apparell, but without care, for thou shalt finde me so trustie, as my troth shalbe without spot, and thy health without hazard. Thus wishing thy curtesie to conster well of my constancie, I bid thee farewell.

Thine or not her owne,
constant Castania.

GWydonius hauing carefully construed ouer the contents of this louing letter, although the rigor of Orlanio might haue giuen him sufficient cause of suspitition, yet the clearenesse of his owne conscience, and the loue hee bare to Castania, would not suffer him either to suspect any treason, or to doubt of any deceit, but determined wout any delay to put the safetie of his person and the safegard of his life into her handes. But leauing him to bring his purpose luckely to passe, againe to Orlanio.

Who seeing that his proclamation coulde not preuayle, and that his nobles preferred their owne safetie before hys securitie, was perplexed with such hellish passions, & griped with such pinching griefe, as the Ghostes tormented with grisly fiends, felt no such hapless furie. To fight with Clerophontes, he felt his strength farre vnfit to resist his force: to denie the combat, he neither could nor would, although he brought himself to confusion, and his children to captiuity, so ỹ howsoeuer he turned himselfe, he saw before his face death and dispaire, woe and wretchednesse, mishap and miserie. Combred thus with this cureless care, and sitting solitarily in sorrow, seeing the dismall day drew on, and hearing that Fernandus ỹ king of Bohemia was lately

landed

landed, hée fell into more furious passions, vntill hée was driuen out of his dumpes by his sonne Therſandro, who perceiuing his father thus dolefully daunted, he beganne most louingly to comfort him, promising that since none durst venter to deale with Clerophontes, hée himselfe would fight the combat, and either worthily win the conquest with renowme, or manfullie die in the fielde with honour.

Orlanio, hearing the bold courage of this newe champion, felt his sorrow somewhat salued by this profer, perswading himselfe that his sonne was better able to abide the brunt than he, and hoping that the Gods would fauour the equitie of the cause, and assuredly by iustice graunt him the victorie. Resting I say, vpon this hope, and thanking Therſandro for his naturall affection, and praysing him for his noble courage, he presently went to méet Fernandus, whom he most princely entertained, conducting him very royally into Alexandria, where he most sumptuously feasted him and all his traine. But as they passed away the time in pastime and pleasure, so poore Therſandro spent the day in dolour and the night in sorrow. For although to comfort his father hée made light of the combat, and valiantly offered himselfe to trie the chaunce of fortune, yet séeing his enimies force for to exceed his feeble strength, he began to faint, although like a worthy Gentleman he couered his dreadfull courage with a desperate countenance, raunging vp and downe the fieldes to driue away his melancholie, where by chance in disguised apparell he met Gwydonius, to whom after some parle past betwéene them, he bewraied the whole state of the matter, how he was to enter combat with Clerophontes, and that he doubted greatly of the euent of the victorie, fearing the force of his Father, and fainting at his owne imbecilitie. Which Gwydonius hearing, hee made this short answere.

Therſandro

THerſandro (quoth hée) it is vaine with long talke to paſſe away the time when delay brédes daunger, and follie to hope for faire weather when the Aire is ouercaſt with cloudes: leauing off therefore all oathes to confirme my faith, thus much to the purpoſe. If it pleaſe thée to truſt me without tryall, and to giue any confidence to my wordes, I héere promiſe both to make manifeſt my loyall loue to Caſtania, and to repay thy courteſie, that I will, reſembling thy perſon, and diſguiſed in thy armour, enter combat with my father Clerophontes, either intending by winning the victorie to obtaine my will, or by loſing the conqueſt to want my wiſh: if this my proffer pleaſe thée, I will paſſe priuily to the Court, if not, good Therſandro, let me go as I came.

Therſandro, commending the ſubtill deuiſe of Gwydonius carried him as couertly as coulde be to Caſtania, to whom hee was farre more welcome, than ſome come, remaining cloſely in her cloſet till the nert morning. Caſtania notwithſtanding knowing nothing of their pretence, Fernandus king of Bohemia, the nert day being gone with all his nobilitie to the place appointed for the combat. Orlanio, Caſtania, and all the Lordes of Alexandria, clad in mourning attire followed him, thinking this diſmall daie ſhould be the date of their deſtruction. And Clerophontes as a balefull wretch thirſting after bloud, and glorying in the hope of his ſuppoſed conqueſt, ſtode in the liſtes, erpecting his fatall foe. To whome Gwydonius his ſonne furniſhed with the armour of Therſandro, preſented himſelfe. Who ſéeing, that forced by the fond allurementes of loue, he was to fight, not with his mortall foe, but with his naturall father, he fell into theſe doubtfull dumps.

Alas poore Gwydonius (quoth he) how art thou combred with diuerſe cogitations, what a cruell conflict doeſt thou finde in thy minde betwéene loue and loyaltie, nature and neceſſitie? who euer was ſo wilfull, as willingly to wage battaile againſt his owne father? who ſo cruell as to enter

combat with his owne sire? Alas, duetie perswades me not to practise so monstrous a mischiefe: but the deuotion I owe to Castania, driues me to performe the déede, were it thrice more dangerous or desperate. The honour I owe to my father, makes me faint for feare, but once to imagine so brutish a fact: the loue I owe to Castania, constraineth me to defend the combat if Iupiter himselfe made the challenge. And is not (fond fole) necessitie aboue nature, is not the lawe of loue aboue king or Keyzar, Father or friendes, God or the diuell? Yes. And so I meane to take it: for either I will valiantly winne the conquest and my Castania, or lose the victorie, and so by death end my miseries.

With that the Trumpet sounde, and Gwydonius lustely leaping into the lists, fell presently into furious fight with his Father, driuing not only Fernandus and Orlanio, but also both the armies into a great doubt, for although Clerophõtes most cruelly prosecuted him, yet he always receiued the strokes, but neuer so much as once returned one blow, till at last loking aloft, and spying Castania, his courage increased, that all feare set aside, he carelesly flang away his sword and shield, and ran vpon his father, not onely tearing from him his Target, but violently casting him vpon the ground and spéedily vnlacing his helmet, offered to cut off his head with his owne sword: but Clerophontes crying out confessed himselfe captiue, and graunted his ennemie the conquest. Whereuppon they of Alexandria, gaue a mightie showt, and Fernandus and Orlanio came downe readie to carrie Clerophontes captiue to the Cittie. But Gwydonius first demaunded of Orlanio if hée was content to performe that which hee promised by proclamation, to whome Fernandus answered, that both hée would and should, or else as he was his friend, so he would be his foe. Gwydonius hearing this faithfull assertion of the king, pulling downe his beauer, beganne to speake in this maner.

I let

Let thée Orlanio (quoth hée) and the worthy king of Bohemia to know, that I am Gwydonius, sonne and heire to this conquered Clerophontes, who for the loue of thy Daughter Castania, haue not spared contrary to the law of nature, to fight with mine owne father, hoping the destinies by my meanes haue decréd not onely of fatall foes to make you faithful friends, but to finish vp your loue, which otherwise could not haue béen performed.

I haue wonne Orlanio my Fathers Dukedome by victorie, and the daughter by conquest, the one I had before by inheritance, and the other by loue, yet I woulde willingly haue thy good will, which if thou graunt, I hope my father will both pardon my offence, and thinke well of my proffer.

Clerophontes kissing and imbracing Gwydonius, tolde him his care was halfe cured, in ỹ such a good Captain had wonne the Conquest. Fernandus and Orlanio stode astonished at this straunge Tragedie, doubting whether they dreamt of such a rare deuise, or saw it in effect. At last Orlanio as one wakened out of a trance, with trickling tears, imbraced Clerophontes, honoring him as his soueraigne, and promising not onely to giue Castania to Gwydonius, but also halfe his Dukedóme in dowrie. Clerophontes thanking him for his curtesie, consented most willingly to this motion, so that before Fernandus departed, the marriage betwéene Gwydonius and Castania, Therſandro and Lewcippa was most sumptuously solempnized.

FINIS.